

SOUTH AFRICA'S PREMIER

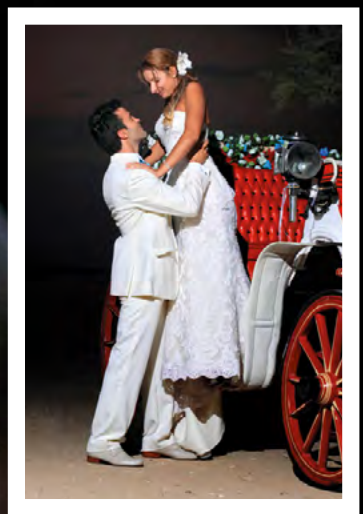
OPINION
NATURE VS NURTURE
Can a horse be
'born bad'?

COMPETITION
DERBY AND BEYOND
Post-event care for
long-term horse health

HEALTH
WATER WOES
Rain scald, mud fever
and other water-related
issues

TRAINING
THINK LATERAL
Two-track work to help
supple your horse

LIFESTYLE
WEDDING BELLS
Dreaming of trotting
down the aisle?



To the point

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EXPERTS



ABBY LONG

Abby started riding at the age of three under the instruction of her mom. In 1992 she moved to SA from England and continued a competitive career as a Junior in showjumping, equitation and dressage. Abby was a national panel equitation judge and 1.25m showjumper before embarking on a dressage career in 2008. From 2009 until April this year she rode for the SA Lipizzaners, and was well recognised for her solo performances. She is a full-time dressage rider and coach and runs regular clinics throughout the country.



HELMUT WAGNER

Helmut is a German-accredited Reitlehrer FN – this designation allows instructors to teach riders through the higher FEI levels and is awarded only upon completion of vigorous courses and riding tests. Helmut has lived in South Africa for 25 years, working at stud farms and running workshops around the country. He is currently based in Chartwell where he schools horses and riders for a number of disciplines.

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS



CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE

I am currently finishing my degree at the University of Pretoria while working for *HQ* and riding my horses. I have been an equestrian enthusiast for as long as I can remember. I have a particular passion for showjumping and straightness training. I am very fortunate to be taught by some of SA's best riders, and I hope I can inspire and pass on knowledge to our readers.



MANDY SCHRÖDER

Mandy started riding at the age of six and never outgrew her passion for horses. She has a National Diploma in Equine Studies Stud Management and Breeding, she qualified as an Assistant Racehorse Trainer and was a qualified showing judge for a number of years. She is particularly passionate about dressage and her beautiful Dutch stallion.



MICHELE WING

Michele has a BA Hons in Industrial Psychology from the University of Cape Town and has worked both in industry and business, consulting in the fields of organisational change and leadership development. A desire to see other countries and experience different cultures saw her temporarily leave the mainstream and travel around the world. However, a love for Africa had her return and involve herself in the Thoroughbred industry, both in television broadcast for the country's national and sporting channels and as a writer for various racing and equestrian publications.



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Welcome



Photo: Ashleigh K Photography

After the past few months of birthday parties and celebrations it's almost restful to get back to our usual format of *HQ*, but of course we couldn't let go of the festive feelings altogether, which is probably why we simply had to take a look at wedding venues! For most horse lovers, the thought of trotting down the aisle to exchange 'I dos' is just irresistible. Of course, this isn't always practical, but that doesn't mean we can't add a touch of equine flair to our special day. On page 10 in Wedding Bells, we look at venues and services that will cater to those of us with a leaning towards the unusual.

With the Galencia Derby on the horizon, we also thought it would be interesting to find out more about the stresses and strains of big-time competition and how to ensure that our horses are able to withstand the pressure.

As we move into the summer season, we also address several topics that affect many horses and their owners around these months. Muddy Waters on page 47 looks at issues affecting horses in the rainy season, Grass Issues on page 50 addresses summer allergies and our piece by Prof Montague Saulez (page 54) delves into the debate surrounding vaccinations.

To top it off, there's a look at Nature vs Nurture on page 58, where we ask if a horse can be 'born bad'. And of course a string of shows and events

that have kept us entertained on the circuit – we just love the Western Festival on page 18!

At the time of going to press the SAEF had just announced its new leadership team, under the presidency of Andre Truter. We have had the privilege of working with Mr Truter in his role as President of the SA Polocrosse Association

“
SA EQUESTRIANS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO SOME POSITIVE CHANGES IN OUR SPORT

and have found him to be proactive and highly competent. If the recent, highly successful Polocrosse World Cup is anything to go by, SA equestrians can look forward to some positive changes in our sport. We wish Mr Truter the very best of luck during his tenure and look forward to working more closely with the committee.

Till next month, enjoy the read, enjoy your horses ... and take #TimeToRide.

Brigitte Billings | Editor

Brigitte



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ON THE COVER
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Photography: Tracy Robertson

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PUBLISHER Urs Honegger

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Gerard Peter
EDITOR Brigitte Billings
brigitte@panorama.co.za
MANAGING EDITOR Deanne Dudley
SENIOR SUB-EDITORS Noleen Fourie,
Vanessa Koekemoer **SUB-EDITOR** Nicolette Els
EDITORIAL INTERN Charlotte Bastiaanse

OPERATIONS AND PRODUCTION MANAGER Paul Kotze
DTP STUDIO MANAGER Cronjé du Toit
DESIGNERS Mauray Wolff, Perpetua Chigumira-Wenda

TRAFFIC AND PRODUCTION Juanita Pattenden

SALES MANAGER Gillian Johnston
ADVERTISING advertising@panorama.co.za
Tel: 011 468 2090
SALES sales@panorama.co.za

SUBSCRIPTIONS subscriptions@panorama.co.za
Tel: 011 468 2090 | Fax: 011 468 2091
ACCOUNTS accounts@panorama.co.za
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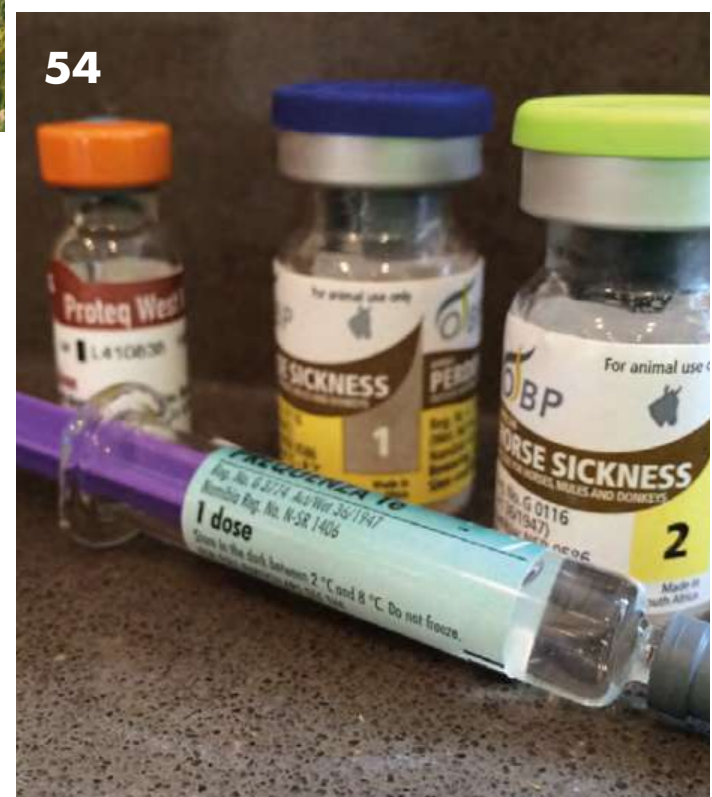
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Do you have a product or service you would like to share with our readers? Contact us at charlotte@panorama.co.za to provide more information.

DIVINE EQUINE

The latest trending equestrian products



GET YOUR DOSE

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(other colours are available if you want yours to be more visible). The Horse Stuff team can personalise any set of tack tags.

Available from Horse Stuff for R120 for a set of 10 tags. Visit the shop in Equifox Park, Kyalami, or email carolyn@horsestuff.co.za, phone 082 900 9260, or visit www.horsestuff.co.za.

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The following bodies represent the various equestrian disciplines in SA:

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www.sashowjumping.co.za
admin@sashowjumping.co.za
081 018 2224
National Chair: Bob Neill
bob@delmon.co.za/bob@sashowjumping.co.za
083 600 0956

Showing Association of South Africa (SASA)
www.showingsa.co.za
admin@showingsa.co.za
083 659 1877
National Chair: Brian Noach
bnoach@8tamil.com
083 659 1877

Eventing South Africa (ESA)
www.eventingsa.com
info@eventingsa.com
ammie@eventingsa.com
021 789 0615
President: Richard Beck
beck@icon.co.za

South African Polo Association (SAPA)
www.sapolo.org.za
execdirector@sapolo.co.za
082 454 9746
Executive Director: Clive Peddle

Dressage South Africa
www.dressagesa.com
admin@dressagesa.com
087 353 3310
National Chair: Sue Horne
shorne@iafrica.com
082 448 8257

Endurance Riding Association of South Africa (ERASA)
www.erasa.co.za
erasagm@telkomsa.net
083 635 3852
President: Gideon Keyser
gideonkeyser@vodamail.co.za
082 578 4294

Vaulting Association of South Africa (VASA)
www.vaultingsa.co.za
admin@vaultingsa.co.za
082 559 6655
National Chair: Paula Taylor
nationalchair@vaultingsa.co.za

South African National Equestrian Schools Association (SANESA)
www.sanesa.co.za
info@sanesa.co.za
083 263 5307
President: Marlene du Plessis
president@sanesa.co.za
National Chair: Lyna May
nationalchair@sanesa.co.za

South African Equitation Association (SAEQA)
www.saeqa.co.za
development@saeqa.co.za
072 247 2929
National Chair: Rosemarie Bartlett
equestcentre@hotmail.com

South Africa Polocrosse Association (SAPA)
www.polocrosse.co.za
072 241 9157
President: Andre Truter
andreT@vodamail.co.za
033 701 1123

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www.westernhorse.co.za
011 662 2941/082 922 8766
President: Collete Erasmus
colette.erasmus@sasol.com
071 678 3409

South African Equestrian Tentpegging Association (SAETA)
www.satentpegging.com
082 579 1903 (Marika Pieterse)
VP: Jaap Lotter
Jaap.lotter@tiscali.co.za
082 561 9842

Equestrian Saddle Seat Association of South Africa (ESSASA)
www.essasa.co.za
ndunbar@data.co.za (office)
079 525 3196
President: Amanda Williams
amanda@oshpharm.com

Carriage Driving Association of South Africa (CDASA)
CDASA@iafrica.com
083 692 2379
National Chair: Brenda Wessels
coachhouse@capvin.co.za

South African Western Mounted Games Association
ferreira.fanus@gmail.com
083 327 6249

NEWS



Kevin Harris, Pedro Piri (Durban International Film Festival), S'manga Khumalo, Mantombi Khumalo (S'manga's mother) and Michael Varney (Racing. It's a Rush)

DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES AT DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

To Be a Champion, a heart-warming documentary which tells the story of how S'manga Khumalo has become one of South Africa's best jockeys, was chosen to premiere at this year's Durban International Film Festival.

"It's a window into the world of jockeys, an adventure, a human interest story and above all else it is a story about a hero's journey," says Kevin Harris, an independent filmmaker in South Africa for the past 32 years, who wrote

and directed the 48-minute documentary.

At only 29 years of age, S'manga Khumalo has already achieved two of his ultimate career goals. The first was his historic win at the 2013 Vodacom Durban July, and the second took place last year when he was announced as the Champion Jockey for the 2013/2014 national season in South Africa. While filming *To Be a Champion*, Harris says they had to go where the story went. This included filming S'manga racing on an ordinary midweek day at the Vaal in June last year.

More than being a film about S'manga Khumalo, Harris says this film is a tribute to all jockeys. "They are athletes and I don't think they get the acknowledgement that they deserve." The copious amounts of travel, often racing between five and seven days a week, the constant risk of injury as well as having to keep fit and maintain a certain weight make the career of a jockey a challenging one to say the least.

This good news story about such a talented sportsman fits in perfectly with the Racing. It's a Rush objective of highlighting all that is exciting and thrilling about the sport of horseracing in South Africa. Racing. It's a Rush assisted Kevin Harris with the making of this memorable documentary.



Jack Ashby and the printed skeleton

3D PRINTING HELPS QUAGGA SKELETON STAND AGAIN

3D printing technology has been used to generate the missing limb of a quagga skeleton. The quagga is an extinct South African zebra, hunted to extinction in 1883. The Grant Museum of Zoology at the University College London set out on a project to restore 39 of the museum's largest and most significant skeletons. The main focus of this project, named *Bone Idols: Protecting our Iconic Skeletons*,

has been the restoration of the quagga.

The museum worked with conservator Nigel Larkin, the Royal Veterinary College and the Bartlett Manufacturing and Design Exchange at the university's Bartlett School of Architecture. The remaining right hind leg was scanned in a CT machine at the Royal Veterinary College. The data collected allowed the scientists to create a mirror image of the left leg on screen. The computer image was then modelled in solid nylon using a 3D-printer at Bartlett Manufacturing. Larkin then articulated the printed bones to make the skeleton complete again.

The skeleton has now been built in an anatomically correct way. "We have worked with specialist bone conservators to restore the skeleton to ensure its long-term survival in the museum. It will now be enjoyed by visitors, students and researchers for decades to come," says museum manager, Jack Ashby.

Source: Horsetalk.co.nz

Monitor your
horse when
he's out of
sight



STAY CONNECTED

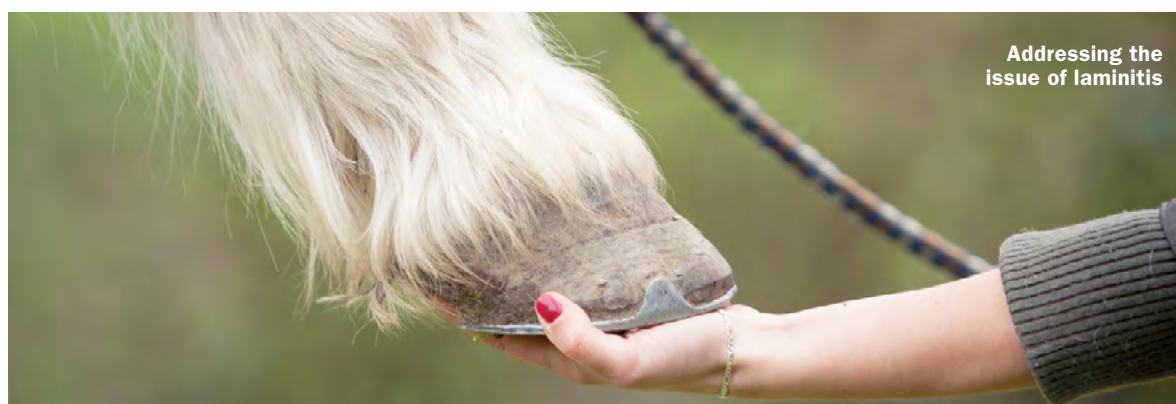
Peter Mankowski from Kitchener, Canada, has launched a new device that allows owners to monitor their horses from afar. SeeHorse is a small device that is worn on the horse's halter or bridle, and connects to the owner's phone or computer through Bluetooth. SeeHorse can monitor heart and respiratory rate and temperature while owners are away from the stables. Other features include movement and activity levels, foal prediction and musculoskeletal conditions. This way, owners can stay connected to their horses and monitor any changes.

"Not knowing how your beloved horse is puts stress on most of us, so we designed a device that lets you stay connected worldwide," says Mankowski. "Users can go back to a horse's account and retrieve historical data as well."

The device uses 100% green energy and it charges as the horse moves. The design of SeeHorse began in June and is nearing completion. They need to pre-sell 500 units in order for the design to be completed. Additional products are available with a variety of features to cater as best as possible for everyone's individual needs. More information is available on the website: www.seehorse.ca.

Source: *Horse and Hound*

Addressing the
issue of laminitis



MAJOR LAMINITIS STUDY LAUNCHED

British researchers are aiming to gather data from over 3,000 British horses and ponies. The information collected is intended to assist in identifying controllable risk factors for laminitis. The project is a collaboration between World Horse Welfare, the Animal Health Trust and the Royal Veterinary College. Roly Owers, chief executive of World Horse Welfare, referred to the research as vital.

"Whatever their age, use or breed – whether they're a two-year-old Shetland companion, a 10-year-old Thoroughbred competition horse or a 30-year-old Clydesdale lawnmower – their data is vital to the success of this research," says Owers. He also confirmed that it did

not matter if the horse hadn't suffered from laminitis before. Owners who are willing to be involved will need to spend approximately 40 minutes initially providing general information online about how their horse or pony is managed, and then brief quarterly updates over a period of 12 to 18 months. The research looks into turnout schedules, grazing management, stabling and indoor environment, feeding, exercise, transport, hoof care and other general health management.

The researchers are optimistic about the insights that they are hoping to tap into. Feedback will be provided upon completion of the study.

Source: *Horsetalk.co.nz*

KEEPING positive!

More input from SA equestrians

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF THE RIDERS

More uplifting words from South Africa's riders: this month we speak to some of the *HQ* editorial team members – all avid horse lovers themselves.



MANDY SCHRÖDER – CONTRIBUTOR, HQ MAGAZINE

My memory: Curling up in the stable with Uron and my dogs, with a book and a cup of coffee and seeing the genuine affection between all the members of my 'fur family'.

My dream: I'd like to see SA dressage grow to such an extent that we do become a force to be reckoned with on the international stage.



ENGELA SNYMAN – CONTRIBUTOR, HQ MAGAZINE

My memory: Eating hamburgers with my favourite leased horse, Mia Mo. I'd gone out riding for about two hours. When I found a good picnic spot, I unsaddled Mia Mo and let her graze,

planning to have my own lunch as well. But she wasn't really interested in grazing. She grabbed my burger and trotted off with it. I chased her all across that paddock but never got my burger (at least I got her back eventually). At the stables I ate her apple.

My dream: For the equestrian world to reach a point where anyone can take part without needing a bank account that would make a Rothschild blush. The biggest obstacle for any would-be rider is the price tag that goes along with getting a horse, which is why so many horse lovers just don't own them or ever compete. Equestrian sport is expensive, that's a given, but I would like it not to be, so that any kid anywhere can go to the local riding club and enjoy a horse, and maybe even a competition or two, without breaking their parents' bank account.



CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE – EDITORIAL INTERN, HQ MAGAZINE

My memory: My favourite horse memories trace back to when I was still a pony rider when I took my pony to a training show and we beat a bunch of adults on their Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods in the 1.10m class. I've never been so proud.

My dream: My dream for the future of equestrian sport in South Africa is that we strive towards friendly competition, with the horses' best interests at heart. I hope we can move past money and the obsession with winning, and remember to spend time with our horses who do so much for us. Too many people forget to put their horse first, and I think that's something to work toward.



BRONWEN (BEE) STRYDOM – HEAD OF DIGITAL STRATEGY AND MARKETING, PANORAMA MEDIA CORP

My memory: I have many favourite horsey memories, but the memory that sticks out the most for me was in 2006, after recovering from Guillain-Barre syndrome. I was completely paralysed for over a year and on life support for many months. After leaving the hospital, I had just learned to sit up, eat, talk and walk again. The first time I sat on a horse after being so sick, it took five people (each side!) to keep me on and we barely moved. That little pony, Ashford Prince, was my physiotherapist and my therapist! As we continued to the stage where I could begin to hold myself up, my instructor and friend Charlotte and I worked on building my confidence, concentrating on my posture, building those lost core muscles, triggering muscle memory and stimulating nerves. The effects were noticeable as my own balance and walking generally improved. Before long I was cantering, taking Ash over small jumps and out on hacks in the beautiful English countryside. Now I ride a minimum of four days per week and I can frolic in fields with the best of them. I am very aware that I was extremely lucky and how blessed I am to have made such a full recovery! I couldn't have done it without horses in my life.

My dream: I wish for more integration of the various disciplines: Western, English and others. I wish to see the breed of American Paints grow in this country across disciplines in Western, dressage and jumping too. I run Cowboy Dressage World of South Africa and Africa and we have grown over 100% in the past year. My wish for this discipline is to see it continue its rapid growth across Africa, and for the people and their horses involved to enjoy every minute of this growing partnership journey together. 🐾

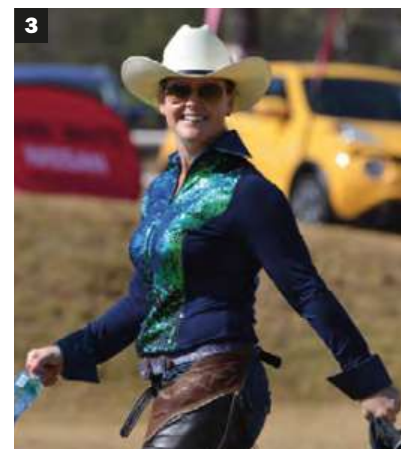
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6

THE MARK WHITE NISSAN EXTREME CELEBRITY COWBOY CHALLENGE

Kyalami Park Club from 9 to
12 July

1. Barry Taylor, Nicky Whitfield and Dominey Alexander heading for a showdown
2. Dominey Alexander strips off his waistcoat for the auction
3. Lorette Knowles Taylor loving that bling!
4. Nicky Whitfield shows off her Ringer shirt
5. Nicole Horwood gets her 'cowboy' on
6. The celebrity team with Michelle York of Rocking Horse Togs, sponsor of the Ringer shirts (far right)

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ANIMAL HEALTH



Planning to include
your beloved horse
in your big day?

WEDDING bells

Dreaming of trotting down
the aisle?

If you're like many horse lovers, it's likely that most of your world revolves around these amazing animals. Your social time is dominated by horse talk, your weekends are spent at the stables, your disposable income is dedicated to tack shopping ...

No surprise then that if you're planning a wedding, you've considered including horses at some level. Equestrians are a discerning bunch though. While the general populace may be satisfied by simply including a couple of shaggy ponies in the background of their wedding photographs, we want more. Those horses have to be well cared for, tack must fit beautifully, owners of venues must be seasoned horsemen.

HQ went on a mission to track down information on trends, decor and venues that fit the bill (look out for upcoming issues for more in-depth venue reviews).

If a full-sized horse is too much for your venue, perhaps you could make an arrangement to bring in a Mini!



FUN IDEAS

- Style your hair using fancy plaiting elastics – if they're good enough to wow the judges they should be a hit with the wedding party.
- If your entourage is made up of your horsey buddies, dress them in riding gear instead of conventional bridesmaid dresses. Let's face it, most of us hate organza and satin anyway.
- Use horseshoes as placeholders for guests' seating arrangements.
- Decorate chair covers with rosettes – no need to raid your competition collection, you can have them made to order.
- Scrap the traditional 'bride and groom' wedding cake ornaments and replace them with a pair of Breyer horses.
- There are more to horses than straw bales and carrots. Use your favourite discipline as inspiration for your big day. Dressage, showjumping and Western all have a decidedly different flavour. Or pick a breed that you find beautiful – Friesians and Arabians are very photogenic.
- If your guests are members of your riding circle, they'll probably enjoy equestrian *bomboniere* – hoof picks, plaiting elastics or horse treats are always handy.



Carriages are a charming way to add a horsey touch

SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS

Start by looking at the practicalities, says Heleen Le Roux at Lezar Opstal in Heidelberg. The venue offers specialised equine wedding services for horse lovers and Heleen has valuable advice to share to ensure your day is safe as well as joyful. "Our Friesians are accustomed to the show circuit where they have been ridden in full dress," she explains, "but many horses are not used to riders in ornate dresses. In fact, some horses are

unhappy even being approached by a bride in a full-skirted wedding dress. I generally advise my brides to opt for a simple, classical style to avoid mishap." Closed shoes are also a good idea if you hope to avoid bruised toes before your first dance as a married couple.

Heleen suggests that brides settle for in-hand photos, but for those who are determined to have their wedding photos on horseback, she says preparation is key. "If you're not an

If these wedding ideas have inspired you, you may feel inclined to continue the theme in your honeymoon. In an upcoming issue *HQ* will look at horsey honeymoon destinations for the riding enthusiast.



Friesians are highly photogenic and provide beautiful photo opportunities – a scene from a recent shoot by *HQ* photographic contributor, Ashleigh Kabe



Closed shoes are a safer option for an equine wedding – *HQ*'s Bronwen Strydom displays her wedding footwear

ENTER AT 'A'

Lizelle Smit of Destalsmit wedding venue and Nooitgedacht Stud also has some sensible advice. "Don't try to ride down the aisle if you don't know how to ride," she emphasises. "The last thing you want to do is have an accident on your wedding day!"

Couples who plan their wedding at Destalsmit are given a tour of the venue, after which a plan for the day will be communicated in writing. Lizelle says this is useful because it avoids confusion down the line, and also outlines clearly what can and can't be done. Fortunately equestrians will have a better idea of what can be expected when working with horses.

The venue provides receptions in the stableyard surrounded by horses, with photo opportunities in the neighbouring paddocks for brides who want to take photos with the horses, or even on horseback. Like Heleen, Lizelle cautions on the type of dresses that will suit these images – a glimpse of garter may be saucy, but an eyeful of knickers is simply unsophisticated! Dressage lovers will be delighted at the prospect of meeting their groom at X – Destalsmit rolls a red carpet down the dressage arena for the occasion.

While some venues provide set menus, Lizelle has found that horse riders prefer things to be rustic. "Couples choose their own menu, which is confirmed in writing to keep communication clear. We've found that our horsey guests usually opt for wholesome fare like potjies or spit braais. And of course carrots for the horses!"

Most venue organisers will opt to include

experienced rider, it's probably not a good idea to take mounted photos in your wedding dress, but if you feel confident that you can do it, try to practise mounting up in a dress beforehand." You may need to sit sidesaddle, unless you have a dress that will allow you to sit astride. Make sure that your horse is comfortable with the experience too or you could have an embarrassing moment if he bolts with you!

She adds another reminder that horses are incredibly sensitive animals. "The bride who

wants photos with a horse needs to be relaxed. A nervous person will transmit their anxiety. Certainly avoid mounted shots in this instance."

She has other common sense tips to benefit guests: "I tell all our brides to stock up on antihistamines in case anyone is allergic." As an option while the bride and groom are having photos taken, the venue provides entertainment with a Friesian long-lining display while guests enjoy cocktails and snacks – a good idea for couples keen to add a little extra touch to their big day.

CELEBRITY EQUESTRIAN WEDDINGS

Some big time riders have incorporated their love for horses into their wedding plans, while others have taken a totally different approach. Here are some fun facts you may not have known:

- Dressage diva **Anky van Grunsven** and her long-time partner/coach, **Sjef Janssen**, were wed in Vegas by an Elvis impersonator. Joep and Tineke Bartels were the best man and maid of honour.
- At the time of her wedding, **Edwina Alexander** was the world's top-ranking female showjumper. She married **Jan Tops**, founder and president of the Global Champions Tour, at the Hotel de Paris in Monaco.

Perfect horsey husband Jan bought Edwina her horse Itot du Chateau as a surprise New Year's gift.

- On the topic of Global Champions, showjumpers **Rodrigo** and **Alexa Pessoa** (née Weeks) met on the Tour in 2006. The couple's equestrian-themed wedding on the Weeks' family horse farm in 2009 included a horse-drawn carriage and photo opportunities in the stables. Tables were named after Alexa's horses – Earl Grey, Bonnie Dancer and Madison – and the couple shared their first dance in the riding arena where they fell in love.
- Rodrigo Pessoa was also the best man at the wedding

of Olympic showjumper **Álvaro Affonso de Miranda Neto** (affectionately known as Doda) and **Athina Onassis**, who is herself a showjumping enthusiast. The pair married in a private civil ceremony and donated their wedding gifts to charity.

- Eventer **Zara Phillips**, daughter of Princess Anne, married rugby player **Mike Tindall** in a ceremony that was remarkably laid-back for a royal wedding. The couple celebrated their nuptials at Holyroodhouse in the UK. After the departure of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, the party got started in earnest with chilled vodka shots accompanying the festivities into

the early hours of the morning.

- Still on the royal front, dressage rider **Laura Bechtolsheimer** married **Mark Tomlinson** at a lavish wedding in Switzerland (complete with Swiss cheese) attended by Prince William, Kate Middleton and Prince Harry – the royals are friends of the groom.
- Horse life can be busy for professional riders, so Danish Olympic dressage rider **Lars Petersen** and American Grand Prix rider **Melissa Taylor** decided to tie the knot in an impromptu ceremony during a family skiing holiday in Colorado. Guests had no idea the couple were planning to wed until the officiant arrived at the door.

Tack can form a lovely backdrop for your wedding reception – the tackroom at Lezar Opstal is a popular venue



Stableyards provide a lovely backdrop for country weddings



notices advising non-horsey guests on how to feed treats to horses – nipped fingers can put a damper on festive occasions.

SMART IDEAS

The wedding of your dreams doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg – try these tips to keep things on budget so you can use your hard-earned cash for something important in your future life together ... like a new saddle!

- **Venue** – If you'd love to have your own horse at your wedding, you may struggle to find a venue that will accommodate him. If you're lucky

vows in a shady spot under the trees and hold your reception in the stableyard or barn.

- **Decor** – Straw bales make inexpensive seating for al fresco dining, and rows of tack adorned with flowers provides a beautiful, budget-friendly backdrop.
- **Flowers** – Bundles of wheat tied with ribbons are cost-effective flower arrangements, while you can carry the theme through to your own bouquet by adding roses or lilies to the mix.
- **Dress** – Obviously you're not going to cut costs on your wedding dress – it is, after all, your big day! But if you're planning to run through the fields with your horse, why not don a pair of funky Western boots – or your favourite Ariats –

enough to stable at a beautiful yard, why not negotiate to have your special

day there? Exchange

for the occasion? So much more comfortable for a long day on your feet. And you can wear them again later.

- **Flower girl?** How about a flower pony ... complete with ribbons in his mane and rings attached to his bridle. You won't have the expense of dressing an entourage of maids-of-honour or tired children who'd rather be playing outside.

ON WHEELS

Although it may be a dream to exchange vows on horseback, this isn't always practical – few chapels will allow equine occupants – although some turn a blind eye to a Mini. A horse-drawn carriage is a popular compromise and many venues will offer this service as an outsourced option. Bear in mind that there are requirements attached to this from a safety perspective.

We spoke to Shirley Sadleir at Chartwell Carriages, who says that most of her brides are



Equine weddings often lend themselves to a rustic charm – but there's nothing stopping you from adding some sophistication



A ceremony in an equine courtyard – the team at Lezar Opstal say that there is often a chorus of whinnies to accompany the vows



Carry a fun cowboy theme through your bridal entourage



If you're planning to have mounted photos taken make sure your horse is comfortable with your wedding dress



not actually horse people and many dream of arriving at their wedding in a white pumpkin carriage. Actual equestrians will very likely have different priorities. "When you book a carriage for the wedding, consider the distance that needs to be travelled and the traffic en route," she says. Ask to see the carriage and horses to ensure that they are in good condition, and also to check that the service provider is experienced in carriage driving – it can be hazardous if not managed correctly; a reputable company will ask you to sign an indemnity form. "Find someone who's been in business for a while and has a reputation for being reliable – you want to be sure they'll arrive on time for your big day!"

By the same token, remember that when horses are waiting it's necessary that you arrive on time too. "We normally book the service for two hours. This allows time to collect the bride from her suite or a location nearby, wait for the service to complete and then take the bride and groom to the reception," says Shirley. Don't expect to pack

the entire bridal party into the carriage, and be sensible about where you'd like to travel. Footing should be safe for horses, with easy access for the carriage to arrive and leave comfortably.

Whether you walk down the aisle on the arm of your father, or arrive leading a plump pair of ponies, marriage is a partnership that goes beyond the wedding day. Fortunately, as a horse rider, you know all about patience, relationship-building ... and when to use a whip! 🐾

CONTACT INFO

Destalsmit: Lizelle 083 3053410,

lizelle@simunyeaircon.co.za,

www.equinesa.com/destalsmit/index.html

Lezar Opstal, Heidelberg: Heleen: 084 581 9905,

Willemien: 083 657 8883, Dale: 082 600 3249,

www.lezaropstal.co.za

Chartwell Carriages: Shirley 083 500 0103,

cstables@netactive.co.za,

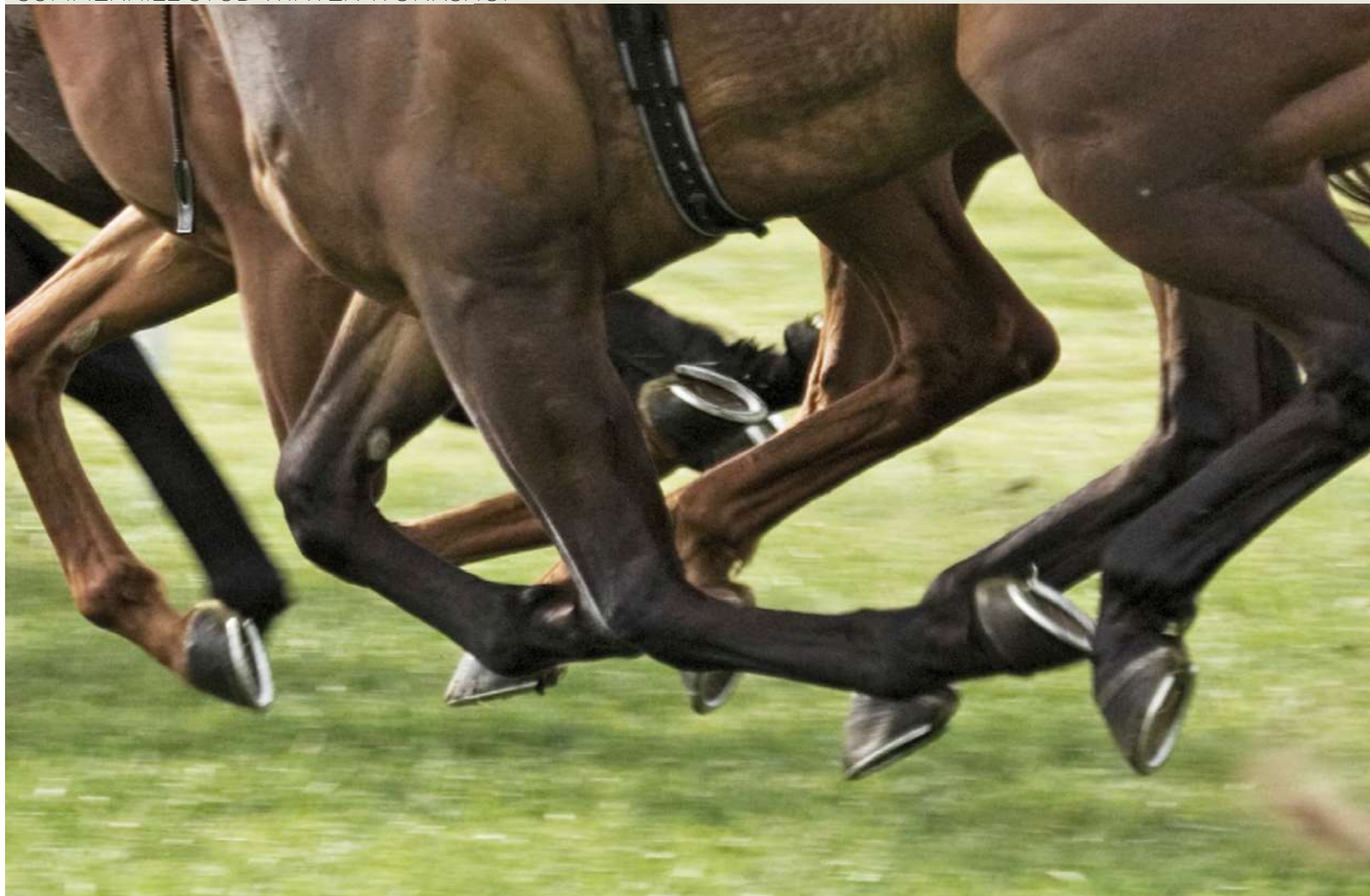
www.chartwellcarriages.co.za

Replace the traditional 'bride and groom' cake ornaments with a pair of ponies



COMPETITION

SUMMERHILL STUD WINTER WORKSHOP



SUMMERHILL Stud Winter WORKSHOP

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHELE WING

School of Excellence
empowers equestrians

Wherever you go in the world the buzzword is education. Nowhere is it more critical than it is in Africa, and nowhere is it appreciated more than at Summerhill, said Mick Goss at the recent Summerhill Stud Winter Workshop.

Well over two decades ago Summerhill embarked on a programme of upliftment of its people. It started with a crèche, a preparatory school and a life skills mentoring class. The mentoring class has seen over 40 overseas

scholarships awarded to recipients who would never have ventured too far from the boundaries of Mooi River.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

Creating opportunities for young, talented horsemen and -women is what promoted the development of Summerhill's School of Management Excellence. The school's main objective is to upskill members of previously

disadvantaged communities from around South Africa, equipping them for management roles within organisations besides the mentorship programme, and the creation of employment. The school's governing body includes retired Judge of the Supreme Court, the Hon. Alan Magid, and the ex-Jockey Club Chairman and senior lawyer, Ronnie Napier.

It is the first institution of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and has "exceeded our highest expectation," said Goss. Hazel Kayiya,

a previous graduate of the school, is now a Gold Circle Corporate Services Executive. Hazel oversees Human Resources and Remuneration for the company, as well as being responsible for Transformation and Corporate Social Investment, Fleet Services and Compliance. This is testimony to the value and contribution of the school to the future of our industry and sport.

WINTER WORKSHOP

In July this year the 40-seat lecture theatre at the School of Management Excellence played host to Summerhill's annual Winter Workshop. In the pursuit of opening up the intellectual debate on racing, the workshop showcased lectures by some of the sport's foremost authorities on their topics.

From the most entertaining Fleet Street journalist turned broadcaster/tipster, Neil

“

“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”
NELSON MANDELA

”

Morrice, who had everyone captivated with his stories of 'Horses and people I've known', to Dr Emmeline Hill, co-founder and Chairman of Equinome Ltd, who discovered 'The Speed Gene' in horses as a predictor of racing performance, there was much food for thought. Chris van Niekerk, winner of a record two Vodacom Durban Julys in a row with Pomodoro and Heavy Metal in 2012 and 2013 respectively, shared his experiences of 'Life in the Fast Lane' and his thoughts on leadership.

Young guns Justin Vermaak and Bernard Fayd'herbe, of fast-growing Green Street Bloodstock, brought a fresh insight into the world of a bloodstock agent and the rigorous demands placed on professional jockeys at the top of their game.

Very few Thoroughbred studs of the world have survived beyond three generations, the two exceptions being Claiborne Farm in the United States (four generations) and Australia's Widden



Leigh Adams (front row, second left) of the School of Management Excellence with the 2015 students



The state-of-the-art 40-seater lecture theatre with a session in progress

Stud (seven generations). Anthony Thompson, the present head of the fabled Widden dynasty and current chairman of the marketing arm of Australian breeding, Aushorse, had delegates riveted with what he had to share about his experiences and success, not only in Australia, but worldwide.

INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION

The Winter Workshop proved to be both a very

informative and intellectually stimulating two days – a must for roleplayers in our industry. To catch the lectures from these keynote speakers, along with Karel Meidema, Barry Bowditch, Grant Burns, Prof Brian Kantor, Dr Monty Saulez, Prof Martin Schulman, Jay Harielall and Hazel Kayiya, log on to YouTube. Alternatively, contact Leigh Adams on 033 263 1081, leigh@equineschool.co.za or visit www.schoolofequinemanagement.co.za. 🐾

COMPETITION

EXTREME CELEBRITY COWBOY CHALLENGE



TEXT: BEE STRYDOM
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE, FINE
PHOTOGRAPHY, ASHLEIGH K PHOTOGRAPHY,
FRED STRYDOM

Extreme

CELEBRITY COWBOY CHALLENGE

Pro riders on show at the
Annual Western Festival
National Championships 2015

For the first time on African soil, the Western Festival 2015, held at KPC from 9 to 12 July, hosted the Mark White Nissan Extreme Celebrity Cowboy Challenge where some of South Africa's top English riders were invited to swap their jods for jeans and show what they were capable of in a Western saddle.

CELEBRITY HIGHLIGHTS

Trained Western and Extreme Trail horses were provided to the six celebrity riders who were required to complete a course on two horses which included a Western riding pattern with spins, flying changes and side-pass over L-shaped poles, plus nine extreme trail obstacles such as a rocking bridge, cowboy curtain, embankment and pool noodle 'car-wash' into a water tray.

Riders Dominey Alexander, Barry Taylor, Nicky Whitfield, Nicole Horwood, Trudy Marsland and Lorette Knowles-Taylor were spectacularly kitted out in gorgeous shirts and waistcoats from Rocking Horse Togs and Stetsons from Trail Saddles. They wowed the crowd with their enthusiasm and elegant and effortless-looking Western horsemanship followed by some rather daring negotiation of obstacles that had spectators holding their breath.

Dominey Alexander, riding Colette Erasmus' stallion Copy Cat Rascal for the Western section and Jacques Roux's Shimango for Extreme Trail, was crowned winner and presented with his prize by Mark White of Mark White Nissan. The event culminated in an auction of the celebrity riders' shirts and waistcoats run by the enigmatic Rawlin 'Rolo' Armer. Michelle York of Rocking Horse Toggs generously donated the proceeds of over R6,000 to the Highveld Horse Care Unit.

Lorette Knowles-Taylor and Copy Cat Rascal share a moment



Boo Verwey and CT Gunner



Cowboy dressage tests were part of the event



Bee Strydom in the cowboy dressage



Judges provided encouraging comments

COWBOY DRESSAGE WORLD OF SOUTH AFRICA AND AFRICA

Cowboy Dressage World of South Africa and Africa was very proud to be involved in the organisation of the South African Annual Western Festival 2015, as well as host its own classes. Cowboy dressage, headed up by HQ's own Bee Strydom, is a brand new discipline to the Western and English scene and has been growing steadily in popularity and interest over the past year. Cowboy dressage welcomed both returning and new riders to its three Challenge classes (Novice, Intermediate and Advanced), allowing both English and Western tack to allow everyone to try it. Cowboy dressage is firmly entrenched with elegant, classical principles and as a result, 'soft feel' self-carriage and turn-out is rewarded, not only in the scoring system but also by way of 'Best Soft Feel' and 'Best Western Turnout' rosettes.

EXTREME TRAIL AND OBSTACLE

Extreme Equestrian Trail and Obstacle (EETO) was delighted to be involved in the organisation of the Annual Western Festival 2015 and ensured the success of the Celebrity Challenge. The Stubbs arena at Kyalami Park was converted into Extreme

Trail heaven with colourful and daring obstacles placed strategically between Nissan vehicles and Mark White Nissan branding. Classes on offer accommodated riders from all discipline backgrounds and all levels of riding and also served as a SANESA qualifier for riders from all provinces.

Extreme Trail and Obstacle is a competition where both horse and rider are judged as they negotiate between 10 and 13 obstacles in less than 30 seconds per obstacle. The final score is made up of a combination of overall time, bonus time points, score per obstacle and overall horsemanship. In-hand showing with obstacles attracted considerable interest. KZN riders took away top honours with Ali Landwehr winning the Colts class with her American Paint, Guns n Moonshine, and Gareth Mare winning the Stallions and Geldings class with his Appaloosa, Dream Hunter. Judith Kritzingier of Mpumalanga won the Mares division with her Boerperd, Goudhoek Liefie.

The ridden classes commenced with a Novice class of 10 obstacles and was won by Danielle Lotriet on Magic, a considerable achievement as she had never competed in Extreme Trail before. The team event was won by Danielle Lotriet and

Willa Paxinos. The Intermediate division upped the ante with 13 obstacles and was effortlessly won by Jacques Roux on Shimango who also took first place in the team event with partner Jana Botes on Dun Deal, both representing Sedibeng and Rivers Riding School.

The pintos from Gauteng took top honours in the Advanced division over a very challenging course with Jacques Roux winning on Shimango in a time of three minutes 30 seconds with 97.25 obstacle points. Youth and SANESA rider Savannah Boltman came in a close second on Phantom Star in four minutes 21 seconds and 96.75 obstacle points. Freda Gocian from Mpumalanga and her mare, Tiger Lilly, took third place in five minutes 47 seconds and 91 obstacle points.

COMPETITION

EXTREME CELEBRITY COWBOY CHALLENGE



Ride 'em cowgirl! Lorette gets more than she bargained for



Dominey showing fine form – he was the winner of the Celebrity Cowboy Challenge



Some young riders made their debut too – Tammy Galliers and Durney won their class against adult riders

NEXT EVENT

DON'T MISS THE NEXT WESTERN CLASS EVENTS – THE PAINTED HALLOWEEN SHOW WILL BE HELD AT MAPLE RIDGE ON 31 OCTOBER (VISIT APHSA.CO.ZA FOR MORE DETAILS) AND THE CAPE SUMMER CLASSIC (MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SOON ON WESTERNHORSE.CO.ZA).



Nicole Horwood and Copy Cat Rascal – a different type of champ!

REINING HORSE SOUTH AFRICA

The South African National Reining and Western Performance Championships was a huge success and was the biggest event to date in the history of Reining and Western Performance. A special thanks to judge Sylvia Katschker from Austria, show organisers, supporters, officials, volunteers and spectators who make such an essential contribution to this important fixture. Crowds were treated to some really good performances, and several talented young riders also made their mark.

The standard of competition continues to improve and the following horses and riders were crowned as SA Champions:

- Tamlyn Galliers riding Durnford
- Jordan Wright du Plessis riding Joop Calabash Impempe
- Johane Coetzee riding Vasvat Huistoe
- Tamryn Thorp riding Oregons Dream
- Gary Kemp riding SD Gunners Platinum Chex
- Boo Verwey riding SD Spike my Guns
- Jean-Jacques Jonker riding Vasvat Unity
- Delyse Allgeier riding Sir Flash
- Jeanette Keppler riding Liefgekozen Red Royal
- Craig Richardson riding Bronco Topsan Siemon
- Cheryl McCrindle riding Bronco Captain Cape
- Debbie Logan riding Bronco Topsan Siemon
- Brando Smit riding Arabesque Frosted Caramel
- Antoinette Burger riding RS Chinook
- Colette Erasmus riding Copy Cat Rascal



Dressage aficionado, Trudy Marsland, learning to see-saw on horseback



Barry Taylor getting to grips with his cowboy persona



Nicky Whitfield negotiating the poles

SAQHA/AQHA (QUARTER HORSES)

The SAQHA/AQHA Show was very well attended by spectators and competitors, with competitors coming from as far afield as KZN and the Cape. The AQHA judge, Sylvia Katschker, with her smile and friendly manner, immediately put the nervous riders at ease. She kindly gave criticisms and tips after judging the classes to help improve the competitors' skills.

Wilma Heesterbeek ran the office with her

usual precision, collating results and humorous commentating. At the prizegiving, winners were surprised to receive envelopes containing quite substantial amounts of money, which had been donated for the show by the SAQH breeders around the country, and the South African Quarter Horse Association. Overall it was a most enjoyable day. The American Quarter Horses were displayed in all their glory and were a credit to the breed. 🐾

COMPETITION

YOUNG HORSE PERFORMANCE SERIES

YOUNG HORSE

TEXT: GAIL FOXCROFT
PHOTOGRAPHY: FINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Performance

SERIES

The third leg of the 2015 series, held at Fourways Riding Club

On a freezing early Saturday morning at Fourways Riding Club, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem on winter rang true:

Chill air and wintry winds!

My ear has grown familiar with your song;

I hear it in the opening year,

I listen, and it cheers me long.

However, I think it was the Old Brown Sherry that cheered most of the riders and spectators 'long'!



The Showjumping section of the five-year-old age group was won by Locarno Baccara, owned by Steve Atkinson and ridden by Simon Hendry

The winner of the Potential Showjumper in the seven-year-old class was the electric SAW gelding Equifox Sting, owned, bred and ridden by Gail Foxcroft



IMMACULATE VENUE

Fourways Riding Club hosted the third leg of the Young Horse Performance Series. We greatly appreciate the considerable effort Marion Clough always makes to ensure her venue is immaculate, offering horses and riders an ideal opportunity to have successful jumping rounds. The terrace next to the judges' box provided the Potential Showjumper judges with an ideal position from which to score the young horses.

Keith Turner and Sue Goodman, who both have a wealth of experience in competing and producing young horses to top level showjumping, generously gave up their time on an icy winter's day to judge our Potential Showjumper section. Brendaau Kok designed the courses but could unfortunately not be there on the day, so Marion and a host of our supporters assisted in course changes in the arena.

Once again the experienced, well-qualified Bowyer family kept the official duties in the judges' box in order with a rare appearance of Richard as announcer. A welcome and unexpected visit from one of our favourite international course designers, Brian Lavery, in South Africa briefly from Australia, completed the day.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD

The Four-year-old Potential Showjumper was won by a new combination in the series, the SAW gelding Kellow Constellation (by Clarinius (Holst) ex Fine Edge xx mare), owned and ridden by Tamara de Jong and bred by Ryan Andrews of the Kellow Park Stud. Only half a point behind in second was Lynda Rabie's imported grey Belgian stallion Luigi De Cantero (by Diabeau (BWP) out of a Contact vd Heffink (BWP) mare), beautifully ridden by Ross Coetzee. Third place saw one of our stalwart YHPS supporters back in the saddle after the birth of her daughter – Lauren Allen with her SAW gelding Cointreau (by Cremant van der Heffinck (BWP) out of a Land Earl (Holst) mare). The SAW gelding Equifox Casino (by Consuelo (Holst) out of a Lindenberg (Old) mare), owned, bred and ridden by Gail Foxcroft, was fourth, with another Consuelo youngster, this time bred in Namibia, Sereno Hot Spot (by Consuelo (Holst) out of a Drosselklang (Hann) mare), owned and ridden by Charl Kotze, in fifth. The imported bay Hanoverian mare Leila (by Lord Pezi (Old) out of a Cornet Obolensky (BWP) mare), owned by the Cellehof Stud and ridden by Dominey Alexander, rounded out the prizegiving in sixth. The results

COMPETITION

YOUNG HORSE PERFORMANCE SERIES



Roeleen Bloemhof and SAW Branic Alley Cat were placed second in the six-year-old Jumping section



The impressive combination of Vanessa Lyon and her SAW gelding Callaho Fanatiker won the Potential Showjumper section of the six-year-old category



In the five-year-old division, the Potential Showjumper section was won by Callaho Lansink presented by owner Rainer Korber

in the four-year-olds were very close – a mere 0.5 point separating the first two horses and only two points separating the next four horses!

FIVE-YEAR-OLD

The Potential Showjumper section was won by the glamorous liver chestnut SAW gelding Callaho Lansink (by Lissabon (Old) out of a Pilot (Westf) mare), beautifully presented by owner Rainer Korber. This combination was also third in the Showjumping section and in the current standings, after three legs of the series, is in a commanding lead in both the Showjumping and Potential Showjumper. The handsome bay SAW stallion Cellehof Breitling (by Burggraaf (Holst) out of a Optimum vd Wellington (BWP) mare), owned and ridden by Dominey Alexander, was second in the Potential Showjumper and fifth in the Jumping, with the SAW gelding Carshop

Assagai Chant (by Canter Z out of an Alzu Walkabout (SAW) mare), owned and ridden by Steve Atkinson, sponsor of Leg 1 of this series, in third. This combination is currently second in the Potential Showjumper standings thus far.

The Namibian-bred grey gelding Seeis De La Moire (by De La Cour out of a Consuelo (Holst) mare), owned and ridden by Monique Cadle, consolidated their position in the series with a fourth in the Potential Showjumper and sixth in the Jumping. They are currently lying third in the Potential Showjumper standings and second in the Jumping standings. Ryan Andrews' bay SAW stallion Kellow Quite Wonderful (by Quartz d'Eclipse (Holst) out of a Wunderbar (SAW) mare) made his first appearance in the series this year with a fifth in the Potential section, with Debbie Millar's SAW mare Ti Quinta (by Quartz d'Eclipse (Holst) out of a Fabriano (Hann) mare),

ridden by Adrian Brink, in sixth. Both fifth- and sixth-placed horses are by Lynda Rabie's imported Holstein stallion Quartz d'Eclipse (by Quidam de Revel (SF) out of a Cassini I (Holst) mare), whose death from African Horse Sickness cut short both his sporting and breeding career. Ti Quinta was also fourth in the Jumping section.

The Showjumping section of the five-year-old age group was won by the elegant Namibian-bred Locarno Baccara (by Locarno Challenger (NAMWB) out of an Athletico (Holst) mare), owned by Steve Atkinson and masterfully ridden by Simon Hendry. In second place by a margin of less than one second was the SAW gelding Davenport Repertoire (by Rex Grannus Z out of a Sailor Prince xx mare), owned and ridden by Wilna de Villiers – this combination has gone from strength to strength during the course of this year's series.

HQ ON BOARD

HQ MAGAZINE IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE YHPS SOUTH AFRICAN BRED SPORT HORSE CATEGORY. DON'T MISS OUR ONGOING COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS (VISIT [HTTP://LOUISE585.WIX.COM/YHPS](http://LOUISE585.WIX.COM/YHPS) FOR MORE DETAILS).



Cellehof Breitling, owned and ridden by Dominey Alexander, was second in the Potential Showjumper and fifth in the Jumping in the five-year-old section



Four-year-old Potential Showjumper was won by the SAW gelding Kellow Constellation, owned and ridden by Tamara de Jong



Second in the four-year-old division was Lynda Rabie's imported grey Belgian stallion Luigi De Cantero, ridden by Ross Coetzee

SIX-YEAR-OLD

In the Potential Showjumper section of this age category, the impressive combination of Vanessa Lyon and her SAW gelding Callaho Fanatiker (by For Pleasure (Hann) out of a Heartbreaker (BWP) mare) were the winners, with the grey Namibian-bred Locarno Chacoelo (by Chacco Blue (Holst) out of a Consuelo (Holst) mare), owned and ridden by Michelle Wilson, closely following in second. Vanessa and Fanatiker have won the Potential Showjumper section in all three legs this year and now take a commanding lead in the overall standings and are also lying second in the Showjumping standings. Way to go Vanessa! Michelle and Chacoelo are second overall in the Potential Showjumper standings and fourth in the Jumping standings.

The feisty bay Thoroughbred Usonto (by Kahal xx out of a National Emblem xx mare), owned and ridden by Talya Drew, was third in the Potential Showjumper section with Roeleen Bloemhof and SAW Branic Alley Cat (by Always One R (BWP) out of a Rivale d'Or (BWP) mare) in fourth. Roeleen and Alley Cat had a great day, also being placed second in the Jumping section.

Fifth in the Potential Showjumper and third in the Jumping were last year's Five-year-old Sport Horse Champions Callaho's Quinzy (by Quintender (Holst) out of an Escudo I (Hann)

mare) and Adrian Brink. Sixth in the Potential Showjumper and fourth in the Jumping was a new combination to the series, the imported Oldenburg Captain America (by Cornet's Stern (Westf) ex Landgold (OLD) mare), owned and ridden by Savanna Valjalo. Welcome to the series Savanna!

The winners of the Showjumping section in this age group were the exuberant combination of the SAW Nova Stud's Neuland Nightlife (by Numero Uno out of a Caesour xx mare), owned and ridden by Arnold Botha, giving them a clear lead in the overall Showjumping standings.

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD

The winner of the Potential Showjumper was the electric SAW gelding Equifax Sting (by Shiraz (Hann) out of a Heartbreaker (BWP) mare), owned, bred and ridden by Gail Foxcroft, with the classic bay SAW mare Style Fragrance's Callaho Fiorella (by For Joy (Hann) out of a Raphael (Westphal) mare), owned by Jeanne Körber and ridden by her husband Rainer, in second. Third place went to the SAW gelding Saratoga Matador (by Waldemar G (KWPN) out of a Carrick (KWPN) mare), owned by Craig and Ursula Wearing and beautifully ridden by Dave Miller, with the talented bay SAW mare Branic Bordeaux (by Belmondo (BWP) out of a Ulior von het Wuitenshof (BWP) mare), owned and ridden by Arnold Botha, in fourth.

The Showjumping section saw a slight rearrangement of the placings with Callaho Fiorella in first, Branic Bordeaux in second and Equifax Sting in third. The Thoroughbred Sanctify (by Fahal xx out of an Exodal xx mare), owned and ridden by Franziska Laidler, made a debut in the series in fourth place.

The leader in the overall Potential Showjumper section is Callaho Fiorella, closely followed by Equifax Sting in second and then the Namibian-bred Locarno Royal Classic (by Challenger (NAM WB) out of a Seeis Dolman (NAM WB) mare), owned by Marcus Gooderham and ridden by Simon Hendry, lying third.

In the Showjumping standings, Callaho Fiorella leads from Branic Bordeaux in second and Equifax Sting in third, so there will be a real battle in store for the last two legs of the series to find the eventual champion.

Don't forget that only three of the four scores received in the first four legs count for the final, and each horse's score in the final is multiplied by a factor of 1.5 which leaves the door wide open at this stage.

Fine Photography took the photos for this leg and have them up on their website, www.finephotography.co.za, for anyone who would like to see more photos. 🐾

COMPETITION

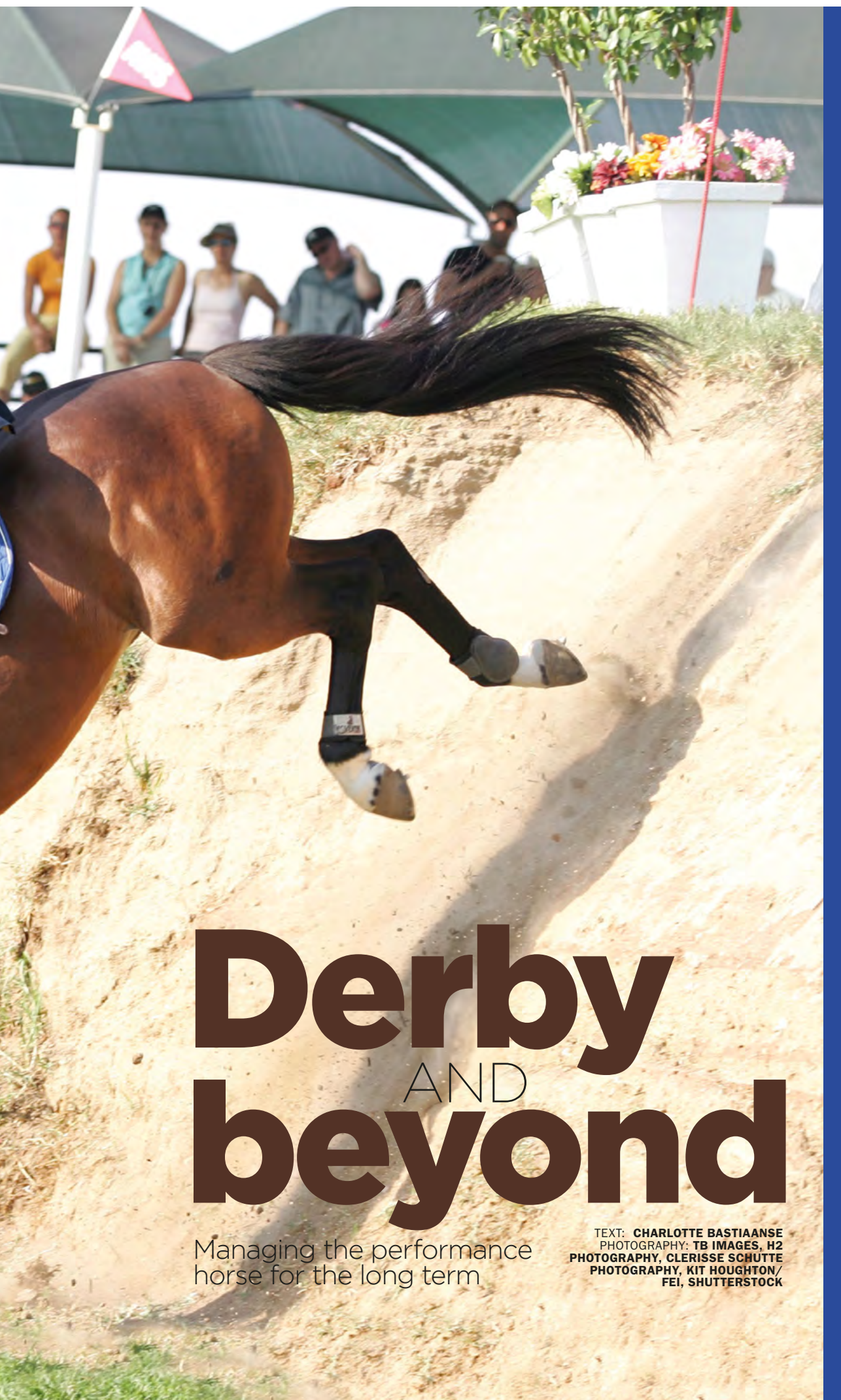
DERBY AND BEYOND

Gail Foxcroft advises that with correct care and preparation, equine athletes should be capable of handling the Derby course regardless of age – here she and CPH Lindenberg tackle the Derby bank. Lindenberg was a much-loved competitor on the SA circuit before his death at 19



BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Gail cautions horse owners to have a careful look at the therapeutic levels of ingredients when feeding a specific supplement; this can be read from the label on the product packaging. For example, if you want to feed a supplement for good hoof growth or maintenance, the most important ingredient would be biotin (most products feed a mixture of ingredients). The average horse would need an intake of approximately 30mg of biotin, but if the recommended dosage on the label and the amount of biotin that you're getting out of that dosage do not add up, you may need to consider trying another product or feeding biotin in isolation.



Derby AND beyond

Managing the performance
horse for the long term

TEXT: CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE
PHOTOGRAPHY: TB IMAGES, H2
PHOTOGRAPHY, CLERISSE SCHUTTE
PHOTOGRAPHY, KIT HOUGHTON/
FEI, SHUTTERSTOCK

Older horses are great. They're schoolmasters so they're pleasant to ride, they save riders from their mistakes, they know their job, and they will carry you to victory. While older horses do need slightly more maintenance than younger prospects, it can all be worth it in the end. This month, we look at caring for the older athlete and how to prolong your horse's competitive career.

With good management and all the knowledge available to us today, horses are healthily competing into their late teens and even their early 20s. *HQ* chatted to Gail Foxcroft for some additional advice on caring for the older competition horse.

FOOD AND FITNESS COME FIRST

The foundation for keeping the older horse in competition form is a good diet and a good exercise programme.

Balanced meal

The reality of things is that an older horse's digestive system will start becoming less efficient with age. It's a good idea to get a nutritionist to advise a well-balanced eating plan, tailor-made for your horse. Vitamins and minerals are important to maintain while supplements can compensate for any nutritional deficiencies.

Good grass will have great natural nutritional content. Ensure that your older horse has access to fresh and good-quality grazing or eragrostis rather than overloading on concentrated feed (this is applicable to any working horse and not necessarily limited to older horses). Dental health is vital – while horses should see a dentist regularly, for older horses this is not negotiable. Older horses will need to be seen by the dentist at least twice a year because their teeth become flatter with age and they may start experiencing difficulty eating and digesting their food properly.



As horses age their teeth require special attention to ensure that they are able to eat efficiently

COMPETITION

DERBY AND BEYOND

Lorette Knowles-Taylor and Nissan Nabab
Forever at the 2014 Derby – Nabab was 19 at
the time and continues to compete successfully



Fitness

Any working horse's joints can undergo severe strain if their fitness programmes are not carefully structured. Riders who overdo strenuous work may see their horses retiring at the age of 10.

CHAT TO THE EXPERTS

If you're not sure about what supplements you need to feed and how much you need to give, consult a qualified equine nutritionist. They will be able to advise you on what to feed your horse, according to his or her individual needs.

In recent *HQ* issues, we took a closer look at vitamins and minerals. To get your hands on these back copies, please email subscriptions@panorama.co.za.

The key is to keep work routines varied and keep demanding work to a minimum. If you start with this structure from a young age, your horse's working life can easily be prolonged, given there are no injuries that might throw a spanner in the works. Lots of hacking, basic and lateral flatwork keep horses fit without putting severe strain on their joints. If you have access to a horse walker, incorporate a few sessions into your horse's routine. Jumping and advanced dressage sessions should ideally only happen once a week. Exercise promotes nutrient-rich blood and removes any harmful waste, so be sure to plan carefully and take your horse's workout sessions seriously!

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Gail strongly believes that older horses, and most competition horses in general, should be on joint supplements to promote comfortable movement

and to prevent degeneration of joints. Older horses can start developing arthritic joints and bone inflammation, so owners will need to be prepared. Joint supplements can also be given to horses who are approaching their senior years so that their working lives are prolonged.

Gail recommends that electrolytes should be given to any working horse. Electrolytes are largely lost to sweating and this results in dehydration. Simply offering a horse water after exercise will not compensate for the electrolytes lost from sweating. Electrolytes can easily be added to the horse's feed. Sodium, magnesium and probiotics are very important to feed as well, depending on the balance of the horse's diet.

Gail says that Traumeel injections are also a good idea to administer if you want to treat bruising, muscular pain or joint pain. Traumeel injections are made up of entirely natural and

Edwina Tops-Alexander's Itot du Chateau retired in 2014 at the age of 18 – according to Edwina he hit his prime at 15



On page 54, we take a closer look at the debate surrounding vaccinations.

Respiratory and cardiovascular tests

Try your best to get the vet out when you can to run respiratory and cardiovascular tests. Horses who compete in more fast-paced disciplines such as showjumping, eventing or endurance need to be able to breathe well and have good heart rates.

PREPARING FOR DERBY

In view of the upcoming Derby, Gail sheds some light on preparing for the course. Gail believes that even though older horses are more susceptible to injuries, as long as they're fit and correctly trained, they shouldn't find any of the obstacles, such as the bank and the ditch, any more difficult than a younger horse.

Their muscles do take longer to warm up and recover so good warm-ups and cool-downs are very important. Gail tells *HQ* that you'll find riders on older horses spending longer on walk and trot work in the warm-up, and less on cantering and jumping. A good walk and light trot after a round will cool your horse down properly as well. Horses need to be seen by all the relevant experts to ensure that they are physically prepared for the demands of the Derby. Gail gives her horses at least one week off after any show, and all of December and January off, so that they are well rested. 🐾



Any equine athlete needs special attention to ensure legs and joints remain healthy

homeopathic substances and therefore have no side effects. Traumeel injections can also assist muscle recovery in the older horse.

THE PROFESSIONALS ARE YOUR FRIENDS

Therapy

Every equine athlete, regardless of age, should be receiving regular physiotherapy and chiropractic therapy to ensure that the horse isn't suffering from any strained or sore muscles or misalignment. Competition horses cannot perform at their best unless they are physically well.

All active horses can also benefit largely from electromagnetic therapy. Electromagnetic leg boots, hock boots, neck blankets and body blankets are available and can be used to target specific areas. Electromagnetic therapy promotes healthy oxygenated blood circulation. Other

benefits include relief from muscular pain, treatment of tendon or ligament injuries, or post-exercise recovery time reduction.

Tack

Tack should be checked on a regular basis because older horses can change in shape over short periods. Getting the bit and saddle fitter out on a regular basis will ensure that the two most important pieces of tack fit correctly and aren't causing your horse any pain or discomfort.

Ice boots are a good idea to use after exercise to help cool down legs, especially during times when it's too cold to hose your horse.

Vaccinations matter

Some older horses may start developing weaker immune systems so it's important to administer your vaccinations as per the vet's instruction.

IS IT WORTH IT?

The reality is that all of this maintenance can be very costly. Physiotherapy, chiropractic therapy, electromagnetic therapy, saddle-fitting sessions and nutritionist consultations start from R500. Although it's ideal to get all the relevant specialists out on a regular basis, it can add up very quickly and often our bank accounts start taking strain. Do as much for your horse as your budget allows.

Caring for older horses really can pay off because they can turn into world-class competitors who have seen and done it all. They can also go on to teach amateurs or help juniors get the confidence they need to start their competitive careers.

RACING

2015 KZN SUNCOAST YEARLING SALE

2015 KZN SUNCOAST Yearling Sale

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHELE WING

Seeking young champions



Sales topper – lot 72
Announcing Rain (Trippi x Far
Off Thunder) was knocked down
for R600,000. Consigned by
Highlands Farm Stud

Durban was abuzz in the weeks leading up to the Vodacom Durban July, with fashion shows, July gallops, golf days, comedy evenings and, of course, the 2015 KZN Suncoast Yearling Sale. Convened by the Thoroughbred Breeders Association, the sale saw owners, trainers and enthusiasts descend on Suncoast Casino in a bid to find their next racing champion.

FAR AND WIDE

In the two-day sale, 262 yearlings from stud farms as far afield as Robertson in the Western Cape, Piketberg up the West Coast and Kimberley in the North West came under the hammer.

Highlands Farm, the sale's leading vendor by aggregate, consigned the sales topper, a daughter of Drakenstein Stud's highly successful sire, Trippi. Catalogued at lot 72, the filly, named Announcing Rain, was knocked down to Adriaan

van Vuuren's Misty Meadows for R600,000 on the first day of the sale. It was not the first time that Highlands have consigned a Trippi sales topper at this sale, with the Robertson nursery having previously consigned Tiger Territory to top the sale in 2012. Announcing Rain certainly had plenty to recommend her. Not only was she a daughter of one of South Africa's most popular sires, but she was out of the stakes placed and stakes producer, Far Off Thunder, a daughter of Kentucky Derby winner and champion sire, Thunder Gulch.

The top-priced colt came in from Highlands Farm's record-breaking sire, Dynasty. The sole lot on offer by his outstanding sire, the Wilgerbosdrift-consigned colt was knocked down to Gauteng-based trainer, Paul Peter, for R575,000. The cleverly named Optical Illusion, catalogued at lot 45, was out of the mare Child of Vision.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

A full list of prices and statistics are available for viewing on www.tba.co.za, or visit and interact on twitter.com/bloodstocksa and facebook.com/tbaofsa.

SALES UP

With the sales aggregate up from last year to R21.562 million, the leading buyer was Misty Meadows, who bought six lots for R1.645 million. Silvano, who went on to record the first three past the post in the Vodacom Durban July, was the sale's top sire by aggregate. Silvano's four lots sold for R1.080 million, with his top lot being lot 68, a colt out of former Cape Fillies winner, Emerald Beauty, knocked down to trainer Tony Rivalland for R400,000. 🐾

Bidding underway



SALES STATS

SALE'S AGGREGATE: R21.562 MILLION
AVERAGE PRICE: R99,364
MEDIAN: R70 000
TOP PRICED FILLY: LOT 72 ANNOUNCING RAIN
(TRIPPI X FAR OFF THUNDER) – R600,000
TOP PRICED COLT: LOT 45 OPTICAL ILLUSION
(DYNASTY X CHILD OF VISION) – R575,000

Vicky in action at Bramham – look out for more information on this event in our next issue of HQ





TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF VICTORIA SCOTT

Victoria Scott

EVENTING IN FRANCE

Revealing the international
experience

South Africa has a growing number of equestrians who have relocated to international posts to further their riding careers on the international circuit. Eventer Vicky Scott is one such rider, and she shares her experiences abroad to give us a better idea of what our riders contend with on a daily basis. Based in Ecuries Scherer, Haras des Presnes, Saint Gervais, France, Vicky explains that her new home is far from the glamorous life many of us would equate with the notion of European living.

MINIMAL GLAMOUR

"I'm not in the pretty alpine village of Saint Gervais, I'm in the 'middle of nowhere' village of Saint Gervais in the north-west of France," she jokes. Vicky has been living and competing in France for the past two years under the instruction of Rodolphe Scherer, who was her inspiration for moving.

The region is famous for its fishing industry, salt farming and 'good weather' – a subjective description since even good weather includes

frozen roads and zero-degree temperatures. "I had to learn how to dress for such occasions," says Vicky, describing outfits that include multiple layers. "On my first ride I went to the beach on a 17hh four-year-old for his first outing ever – I was dressed in stockings, jods, two pairs of socks, a vest, a long-sleeved shirt, a polar fleece, a thermal jacket, my boots and chaps, a waterproof pair of long chaps, thermal gloves, a scarf, ear muffs and my hat! And it was a beautiful sunny day." Fortunately, the beach provides 20km of



Rodolphe Scherer showing Vicky how to negotiate the water jump at Pau, France



The European competition circuit is not always as glamorous as we may believe

undisturbed riding for fitness interval training and arctic water to cool down the horses' legs after training.

On the other hand, the location is far from many show venues. "We are three hours from Saumur, which is where the National Equestrian School and high-performance training centre is in France," explains Vicky. The venue is a regular training spot whether for clinics with the French national coach or to just truck there for the day to train around the cross country course. "The travelling distance does not seem to bother the French as this is also our closest international completion venue, with a beautiful big CCI3* completion there each May (our furthest being a two-day journey to Portugal). We are lucky enough to be able to use some of the jumps and facilities from this competition because of my coach's position in the French national team. This venue has amazing facilities and amazing sandy ground that allows us to not need studs, even in the rain."

THE LIFESTYLE

Between training and competing Vicky spends a lot of time on the road and away from 'home'. "I live in a small *gite* (cottage), just 30m from the stables. On the road I sadly do not have my

own truck so I live either on a stretcher bed in the back of the lorry or in a tent. This is not very comfortable accommodation but we work so hard during the day that by night time you can sleep anywhere.

"Ordinarily we take between three and six horses to a competition or clinic. These will be a selection of some of my string of three horses and some of Rodolphe's six competition horses, depending on their level. While away, I am the groom for myself and Rodolphe. I feed, muck out, bandage, groom, plait, tack up, lunge, ride and set up jumps. This gets tricky at competitions where my obsession with turning out to a high standard sees me plaiting by cellphone light way into the night, or running through the mud in the trot-up couture, late for the vet check. But I have an excellent relationship with my horses because of it, and know their physiques and behaviours perfectly."



LANGUAGE BARRIER

Vicky admits that her life would be simpler if her language skills were better, but her limitation is treated with good humour. Going to shows, or even just the supermarket, can be mind-boggling and often the language barrier can result in extra work since she's not able to ask for help, but this is a minor hurdle compared with the matter of dealing with the show circuit.

"The biggest adjustment, however, has been the sheer enormity and magnitude of the competitions," she says. "The grandeur of the venues and courses, and treatment of riders and owners are incredible – although here I am very much a small fish in the sea." Classes are large and the stakes are high. "With 80 to 100 competitors in each class, one dressage penalty from one judge can cost you 10 places. Everyone is at the top of their game, and to do well takes an enormous amount of careful work and dedication. Mistakes are not an option."

TOUGH GAME

"Eventing can be particularly cruel. As we only have one chance for the whole weekend, we don't have another class where we can try again, so we need each discipline to go perfectly. This puts a lot of pressure on the horse and rider, but it is this pressure that pushes us to become better. Being able to compete internationally is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I am so grateful I have. Not everyone is able to do this, so I am embracing every moment. It's definitely not easy, but the knowledge and experience that I gain each day is priceless." 🐾



Song du Magay: Song is a nine-year-old bay Selle Francais gelding by Yarlands Summer Song. I bought Song about two and a half years ago. We have taken things slowly to retrain his technique. We have always felt his talent, with a very cool brain, huge stride and powerful jump. He is my top horse and has recently qualified for the Olympics at CC13* level at Bramham. He is still very young for the top level so we expect great things from him. He loves cross country but definitely loves carrots more.



Major des Loges: Major is a 15-year-old chestnut Selle Francais gelding. I've owned Major for just under a year now. He is one of the quirkiest horses I have ever met. He is very stiff to ride, so he makes me work very hard in dressage and showjumping, but he more than makes up for it in the cross country, as he is a cross country machine. He is a very grumpy horse, constantly in a bad mood, but is actually just a big softy. Major broke a bone in his buttocks in October last year and had to have six months of stable rest, but he is back competing at 2* level again now.



Romancier: Romance is a six-year-old bay Oldenburg gelding by Furst Romancier. I bought Romance from a breeder in Germany after he had only been backed for two weeks. We took him slowly as he was a very playful baby and got everyone off weekly. He started competing in March this year and is already ready for 1*. He is HUGE but is a pleasure to work, and is the envy of all the other riders at our stables. He absolutely loves hugs and attention and wants to talk all day.



HQ WELFARE

SILVER LINING INITIATIVE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY: **CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE**

SILVER LINING

INITIATIVE

Time to Play Play!

At the end of May, Silver Lining Initiative's Play Play arrived at Blair Atholl Equestrian Centre to start his training with Brendan McNevin. Brendan runs the equestrian centre, coaches his students, competes his own horses and still finds time to produce and school this recently off-the-track-Thoroughbred. This month, *HQ* caught up with Brendan to chat about how Play Play is adapting to life after the racetrack.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF PLAY PLAY?

He's very level-headed. I think he's going to make a very nice horse for someone one day. As a ride, he's very willing. He's forward off the leg and he wants to learn. That's why I love training Thoroughbreds. Although the Warmbloods are super powerful, they aren't always quick-thinking. They haven't had a racing career so they're slower to start out with. Thoroughbreds pick everything up so much easier and they're quick learners. When I started with Play Play, Joanne Pursey of HHCU said, "Please be careful because he's quite aggressive in the stable." It turned out that he's just very ticklish – someone had once tightened his girth too quickly and he'd tried to bite her. So I've simply asked the team to do up his girth slowly. Now he's totally different. It's all about horses being misunderstood. They need to be pushed in the right direction and handled correctly.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY CHALLENGES WITH PLAY PLAY?

Yes, I suppose so. Whenever you get a new horse you have to begin with a clean slate and start off really slowly. My only real challenge with Play



Brendan McNevin and Play Play – new personalities in the Silver Lining Initiative

FUNDRAISING

If you would like to know about various fundraisers in your area, or how you can get involved with your local animal shelter, send your contact details to brigitte@panorama.co.za or visit animalchannel.co.za.



Play Play has a level-headed, sweet nature and has shown a pleasing willingness to work with Brendan



Brendan thinks Play Play will be a great all-rounder



Learning new things is part of the transition from the track

Play has been to make sure that people aren't near his mouth when someone is doing the girth up so that he doesn't nip. Other than that, he's been an absolute saint.

WILL YOU TAKE ON ANOTHER SILVER LINING INITIATIVE HORSE?

Definitely! I think in the society we live in, we need to give back – and where I can give back, I will. I do also think that you have to be ready for any new horse you take on. You can't just say, "Oh sure! Bring the horses!" and then realise that it's full showjumping season and you don't have time."

DESCRIBE PLAY PLAY'S NEW LIFE.

Here at Blair Atholl, we have a 6km trail that we can ride out on. It's so beautiful – there's warthog, jackal, springbok and all sorts of other things to see. There's absolutely no pressure, which is great for Thoroughbreds because they live a very pressured life when racing. They don't get a lot of turnout time or personal attention. Many don't even know how to eat carrots. So when they come here, you start right from the beginning – you feed them carrots, you get the kids to 'coochee-coo' them and love them and all that type of stuff.

I also want to teach the kids [at Blair Atholl] that giving back is important. That's why we got our own little Harry the Horse. If you've got, then you must give back. If you can teach kids how important it is, by the time they're older and they've got their own kids, they're going to teach them the same thing.

PLAY PLAY WILL GO ON TO BE ADOPTED. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR HIM IN THE FUTURE AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S SUITED TO?

I think he's the whole package. Someone will be able to compete on him. I think he moves nicely enough that you could even do a bit of showing. I don't know why but I have the feeling that he's going to be a girl's horse. He's a gentleman! There was an amateur rider who came and rode him the other day. She just slumped on his back with her reins at the buckle and I thought, 'Oh gosh, I hope he's not going to get too tense' but he just plodded along. I respect horses who have natures like that. I think they're really special! So yes, I do think he will compete but the lovely thing about him is that he hacks beautifully. He's a level-headed and sweet horse and it really helps putting time into horses like that. 🐾

Good grooming

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

Taking care of the people who take care of our horses

As more equestrians pay attention to the business aspects involved in running a successful equine-related company, the issue of staff management has come under the spotlight. This is a particular concern when looking at the matter of grooms' reimbursement packages.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

For many grooms a steady job is the most they feel confident to ask for in today's economic climate – StatsSA currently sets unemployment figures at 25%. However, as an employer, it's important to consider the future welfare of those who work for us, especially since many of our employees haven't had the benefit of a solid financial education. In a lot of cases, the men and women who care for our horses face a gloomy future once they leave their careers in the horse world, and considering that yard work is gruelling manual labour, this may be sooner rather than later.

HQ recently spoke to Deon Vermaak of FinClear about the products available for our blue-collar workforce. Finclear is affiliated with various service providers for a range of group risk, provident fund and retirement structures, namely Discovery Life, Old Mutual, Liberty, Sanlam and Momentum. Several products have been designed specifically for industries such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and mining, where lower income brackets often mean that long-term planning is not prioritised.

AFFORDABLE OPTIONS

"Sadly grooms seldom get a pension – they simply can't afford it," Deon starts. "In many instances, once they leave their jobs their prospects are very poor indeed." He advises employers to discuss retirement plans with their staff and encourage them to look into some of the affordable options available.

"You don't have to be a formal business to help your team access these products," he adds. Most stable yards are run as close corporations, while many grooms are employed by private yards with just a few horses. With this in mind, advisors such as Deon have been pointing people in the direction of provident funds or group retirement annuities as manageable investment options.

"In a provident fund, the minimum monthly premium is R150 per member," says Deon. "This benefit can include life cover, disability and a family funeral benefit. Should the member leave his place of employment, the funds are accessible." This particular fund needs a large take-up to be implemented, so it's ideally suited to larger yards or in areas where several yards pool together to provide cover for their collective teams.

For smaller concerns, Deon suggests the group retirement annuity. "The minimum monthly premium is R250 per member," he says, adding that many employers opt to introduce the product as a type of salary increase in which the employee pays half the premium, while they cover the balance. "It's a simple way to save," he continues. "If the value is below R7,000, the funds are available to the member

in cash. Should the amount be in excess of R7,000, this will be retained in the investment with growth until the member reaches the age of 55, thereby ensuring that the member has funds available for retirement purposes." Aside from retirement plans, funds which are drawn out can also prove to be useful for home loans or education, which might ordinarily be out of the reach of this income bracket.

EXPLAINING THE PROCESS

Deon explains that the application process is simple – grooms submit their work permit and identity document or passport and the debit order is deducted from the employer's account. However, he says that it's useful to spend time explaining the concept in more detail. "We prefer to meet staff members to give them an illustration of exactly what happens to their money and how much they'll get out." Since financial planning is often an unfamiliar topic for many new contributors, this can be a useful way to settle concerns and also to educate about other areas of interest, for instance life cover, saving plans or hospital plans. 🐾

IN UPCOMING ISSUES

HQ will look into various areas of staff management and business planning for equine companies. If you have comments to share or products/services that may be of interest, please email brigitte@panorama.co.za.

EXPERT
DEON VERMAAK

Deon is a qualified financial planner and is an Associate of the Financial Planning Institute. He has been doing financial planning for his customers for over 25 years. He has had multiple awards from asset managers and insurers over the years to commend his sound financial planning and advice to his clients, including being a Prestige Gold member of Discovery, and a member of Liberty's Production Club. For questions related to this article, he can be reached on 011 516 0071/2 or 083 601 2048, or email deon@finclear.co.za.



TRAINING

GYMNASTICS IN THE DRESSAGE ARENA

GYMNASTICS IN THE dressage arena

TEXT: HELMUT WAGNER AND
BRIGITTE BILLINGS
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHARLOTTE
BASTIAANSE, WITH THANKS TO
DOUG ANDREWS FOR THE USE OF
FACILITIES

Lateral work for improved
suppleness

Here Hildegard
Setzkorn and
her Namibian
Warmblood stallion,
Midgard Elevation,
demonstrate the
canter half-pass
– an expressive
movement, as well
as a useful suppling
exercise

GYMNASTIC FOCUS

Helmut provides practical tips on how you can make the most of your horse's best talents. Whether you ride an imported Warmblood or a homegrown crossbreed, you can use the dressage arena to create a healthy, happy athlete.



EXPERT HELMUT WAGNER

is a German-accredited Reitlehrer FN – this designation allows instructors to teach riders through the higher FEI levels in riding tests, dressage and showjumping and is awarded only upon completion of vigorous study courses and riding tests. Helmut has lived in South Africa for 25 years, working at stud farms and running workshops around the country. He is currently based in Chartwell where he schools horses and riders for a number of disciplines. He can be reached on 082 561 2254 for training queries.



Serano (imported seven-year-old Oldenburg owned by Bev Andrews) and Philippa Terblanche work on the shoulder-in – the horse should be travelling down the track with his forehand in, at an angle of about 30° to the track, with an inside bend. He should be on three tracks



In previous issues of *HQ* we spoke to German-accredited instructor Helmut Wagner about using correct schooling and ‘gymnastics’ to unlock the natural movement of the dressage horse. We also looked at the benefits of cavaletti as a useful gymnastic tool to lift the shoulder and engage the hind leg.

In this issue, we look at the benefits of lateral work in creating a horse who is supple and obedient to the aids.

THE MOVEMENTS

When we talk about lateral work we have to mention shoulder-in, travers, renvers and half-pass, says Helmut. “Lateral work is good for developing collection and suppleness. The horse has to bring his hind legs further under his body in order to carry him sideways. This increases the engagement of his hindquarters and thus improves his balance.”

THE ‘MOTHER’ OF LATERAL WORK

Shoulder-in is one of the most important exercises in dressage training and Helmut describes it as the ‘mother’ of the lateral movements. It improves collection and suppleness and further develops the relationship between the inside leg and the outside rein. Helmut explains that correct angles are vital when using lateral work. “The angle for shoulder-in is measured by the horse’s position in relation to the long side of the track. When viewed from behind, the horse should be travelling down the track with his forehand in, at an angle of about 30° to the track, with an inside bend. He should be on three tracks.” Helmut explains further that this means that the horse will show a bend around the rider’s inside leg and when viewed you should see only three legs in motion.

Shoulder-fore is much like shoulder-in but with a smaller angle. It is a valuable exercise to straighten the horse and prepare him for other movements.

TRAINING

GYMNASTICS IN THE DRESSAGE ARENA



In travers, the outside leg will cross over the inside, in other words the outside front crosses over the inside front

LATERAL MOVEMENTS

Travers, renvers and half-pass are lateral movements in which the horse must bend in the direction in which he is travelling. The horse must move away from the outside leg but bend around the inside leg. Helmut clarifies the movements by describing each in turn.

Travers is ridden on the long side of the arena or centre line, with the haunches to the inside and the forehand on the original line. The legs should make four tracks. "It's not always an easy move for the horse if he is not supple, so it is important to ensure that there is no tilting or twisting in the hip. You may find it easier to ride off from a 10m circle into the travers."

Renvers is the same for the horse as travers or half-pass, however, it is more difficult to ride because of where it is performed," says Helmut. The positioning of the horse's body is similar to shoulder-in, but the bend is to the outside and again the horse should be on four tracks rather than three.

Introduced from Medium level in trot and

in canter for some, the **half-pass** can be an intimidating movement initially. Helmut explains that it can be helpful to look at the movement simply: "Half-pass is exactly the same as travers, but instead of travelling down the track at an angle, the horse travels forwards and sideways across the arena, with his body parallel to the long side, using the same aids as with travers," he says. "If the quarters are leading, however, he will not be able to move freely across and his strides will become short and restricted."

Helmut adds that, "Starting from a shoulder-in position gives a fluent start to the half-pass and is a good way to ensure that the horse is correctly bent around the inside leg." You can also start by riding from the centre line into a 10m circle into the half-pass, either left or right, depending on the direction of entrance. "The fore and hind legs must cross," Helmut continues. "To begin with, you can ask for a shallow angle, just ensure that the shoulder starts the movement and that the quarters aren't leading."

LATERAL MOVEMENTS – A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Beautifully illustrates the varying lateral movements for:

◀ Shoulder-fore

◀ Shoulder-in

◀ Travers

◀ Renvers

These images courtesy of Das Dressur Pferd. Von Harry Boldt

The half-pirouette is the beginning of 'sitting'



INTRODUCING THE HALF-PIROUETTE

In dealing with two-track work, Helmut says this is also the time to introduce the half-pirouette. "The half-pirouette is an excellent exercise where the rider can feel if he's got the hindquarters under control. It's the beginning of collection; the beginning of 'sitting'. Later in the higher levels, we have the half-and full pirouette in canter. Technically it's the same – a regular four-beat walk should be maintained throughout, as well as a regular, active three-beat

in canter." Helmut describes the half-pirouette as a turn through 180°, where the hind feet make a small half-circle, almost on the spot, and the forefeet make a larger half-circle around the hind feet. The horse is bent slightly in the direction of the turn and may not step backwards.

Helmut adds that a good exercise is to ride a half-pirouette into renvers. "Take care to avoid too much angle, or your horse will bang his hocks," he warns. "The aim is to allow the outside front leg the freedom to cross over the inside front."

As always, he emphasises the need for moments of impulsion after collection. "Remember that the impulsion will allow the collected work to keep its power," he says. "A lengthened trot down the long side is useful for this, however, discourage the horse from running or becoming choppy due to restriction. In all gaits he must retain his basic rhythm and beauty. And never forget that with every instruction, there should be a 'please' and 'thank you' from the rider – it's the best way to ensure a happy, obedient athlete." 🐾

TRAINING

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL - PART 3

IN IT FOR THE Long haul

TEXT: **ABBY LONG**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE**

Focusing on your riding

PART 3



Invite a friend to ride with you and add some fun to your training

In our past two issues of *HQ*, Abby Long has given tips on how to help your horse stay interested in your regular schooling programme, looking at ways to vary the routine. This issue the focus turns to you, as the rider, and how your issues can slow down the progress of your training. Abby also offers ideas on how

to 'freshen up' your ride by including outside influences.

FOCUS ON YOURSELF

One thing I notice as a dressage coach is how often a rider will complain that their horse is "not doing the right thing," when in fact the rider is

sitting in such a way that the horse is incapable of doing the required task. Spend an entire session working on your position and your feel, and you'll be amazed how much better your horse can go with you seemingly doing nothing.

Start by closing your eyes and feeling the horse underneath you. Try to pinpoint when each of

EXPERT ABBY LONG

Abby started riding at the age of three under the instruction of her mom. In 1992 she moved to SA from England and continued a competitive career as a Junior in showjumping, equitation and dressage. Abby was a national panel equitation judge and 1.25m showjumper before embarking on a dressage career in 2008. From 2009 until April this year she rode for the SA Lipizzaners, and was well recognised for her solo performances. She is a full-time dressage rider and coach and runs regular clinics throughout the country. For schooling queries, phone 082 652 0948 or email abby@abbylongequestrian.co.za.



Ride behind a more advanced rider to see how they work with their horse

his hind legs is stepping underneath his body by saying out loud, "left, right, left, right" and then confirm by having someone on the ground telling you that you're correct, or check by looking down if you have to.

You can also try riding without stirrups and focusing on where your centre of gravity needs to be in walk, trot and canter.

Bridge your reins for a few minutes to check that you are riding with your hands absolutely level. You'll feel if one hand wants to be lower than the other. You can also try riding with your reins in the Mexican grip, which is a great way of ensuring that you are not 'hanging on' with your hands, and encouraging you to steady your horse with your seat before your hands.



Bridge your reins to check if your hands are level



Riding with a Mexican grip will keep you from 'hanging'



TRAINING

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL – PART 3



Ride a pas de deux to vary your schooling – it will also help your horse learn to deal with other horses in the arena



Check your seat to see if you're straight in the saddle

RIDE A PAS DE DEUX

If you have a friend who is willing to have some fun, riding simple exercises in mirror images of each other can have many benefits. Firstly, by trying to match each other's movements you will be able to comment on how your partner's horse is going, which will help you both. It will mean that if your horse is used to running on, and you have become blissfully unaware of this because that's how he's always gone, your friend will be able to point out to you that you need to balance and steady your pace. Likewise, if your friend's horse is lazy and trots at a snail's pace, she will soon realise that she needs to press him forward more. This exercise can help horses who become worried in practice arenas as there will

be frequent passing of each other, and at times riding alongside each other. It also challenges you to get creative, and ride patterns where you might normally go round and round the arena aimlessly. It's not as easy as you may think, but can be a lot of fun.

FOLLOW A PRO

If you get the opportunity, ride behind a pro for a while. Be sure to tell them that you're planning on following them, in case they decide to start practising their canter-halt transitions, and you're right behind them! Obviously keep a safe following distance, but keep close enough to them to be able to note what they are doing, and mimic their movements. Even if they are riding a half-

pass, and your horse can only just do a leg-yield, you can follow.

The best professionals are generous with their knowledge and will be happy to explain to you after their ride why they were doing certain things, provided you catch them with enough spare time to chat. This can give you opportunities to learn new exercises, and if nothing else will hopefully inspire you to want to be as good as the person you've been following.

VIDEO A SESSION

Get a friend to video you. Riding through a particular dressage test or just general schooling will help you to assimilate what you're feeling and what it looks like in real life. For example, our bodies are often giving us false feedback as far as sitting straight goes. Seeing is believing, and you may find that you are able to correct a life-long flaw or weakness in your position by seeing it on camera. Having a session filmed enables you to get criticism from people who may not otherwise get to see you ride, such as overseas coaches and judges if you have the network to be in touch with such individuals (there are currently several sites which allow you to upload your videos for comment from international judges). Video sessions also provide wonderful benchmarks to refer back to for tangible improvements to further inspire you to work hard for your goals. 🐾

HEALTH & CONDITION

MUDDY WATERS

For some horses, rainy weather can spell painful conditions affecting hooves and skin

TEXT: MANDY SCHRÖDER
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

Muddy waters

When the rainy season brings problems

We all pray for rain to boost the growth of the various grasses for our hay, crop yield for concentrate production, the reduction of dust in our arenas and green paddocks. In typically human fashion, we also often end up complaining about the rain

HEALTH & NUTRITION

MUDDY WATERS

that we have longed for, as rain, or too much of it and the associated mud, can lead to a whole host of health issues, especially for those horses who live out or spend a lot of time in very muddy conditions.

THRUSH

Thrush is really a hygiene problem and therefore a management issue. Thrush is a common bacterial infection that occurs in the hoof, around the frog. The bacterial culprit is *Fusobacterium necrophorum* which occurs naturally in the horse's environment – especially in wet, muddy or unsanitary conditions – and grows best with low oxygen. Horses with contracted feet and deep clefts are more at risk of developing thrush if their feet are not cleaned properly.

Solution:

- Give the horse a dry area to stand on.
- Clean feet properly twice a day.
- Ask your farrier to trim the frog so that you can clean on either side of it.
- Use a suitable product to dry out the area and kill any bacteria.

GREASY HEEL AND MUD FEVER

Greasy heel goes by many names: scratches, mud fever and pastern dermatitis to name a few. It is not a single disease but refers to the clinical presentation of a group of inflammatory skin conditions. Multiple bacteria are thought to play a role in the disease and include *Dermatophilus congolensis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus hyicus*. Certain horses seem to be more predisposed to contracting it in the right conditions; interestingly they often have white markings on their legs with corresponding pink skin.

It is incredibly painful to a horse and can result in lameness. It often starts as scurfy-looking scabs and a thinning of the hair in patches. If left unchecked it progresses to painful, long lesions that have a crusty scab over red, raw, inflamed skin. As it occurs in an area that flexes a lot, the cracks can constantly crack deeper if not treated properly. If you are at all worried, consult your vet. If a horse has had greasy heel once they seem to have a susceptibility to getting it again. Left unchecked greasy heel can develop into granulomas, a type of scar tissue, and equine cellulitis, an inflammation of deeper layers of skin, resulting in heat and swelling in the legs.

It is thought that removing a horse's feathers adds to the development of greasy heel. The

feather (long strands of hair growing off the back of the fetlock) encourages water to run off down the hairs as opposed to collecting on the skin on the back of the pastern. Conversely, horses with very thick feathering often need the feathers removed in order to get the area dry enough to clear greasy heel up.

Solution:

- Keep susceptible horses out of constantly wet, muddy conditions.
- Scrub out and disinfect stables and provide clean, dry bedding.
- Dry legs off thoroughly when the horse comes in from the paddock and after work.
- Clean legs thoroughly every day to remove scurf, dirt and sweat.
- If you suspect greasy heel, clean with a gentle antiseptic and wash and dry thoroughly.
- Gently remove any scabs or dead skin.
- Apply an antibacterial cream.
- In severe or resistant cases or if your horse shows signs of pain, then please call a vet.

RAIN SCALD

Rather like greasy heel, rain scald, also known as dermatophilosis, is caused by the bacteria *Dermatophilus congolensis*. Rain scald is more commonly seen in horses who live out and may end up wet for extended periods of time. It appears along their topline along the neck and back and may even appear on the head.

It starts with crusty scabs that stick clumps of hair together. This can be incredibly painful, especially due to the area that it is in. Keeping the horse clean and dry is paramount, and a vet's advice should be sought for treatment with the correct antiseptic wash and cream. The horse should be rugged up to prevent excessive wetting if living out. Blankets should not be shared and should be washed and cleaned regularly.

Solution:

- Keep your horse clean and dry.
- Groom regularly and pay attention to cuts and scratches on the body (they are potential germ pathways).
- Clean and treat scabby areas immediately.
- Speak to a vet if you are concerned.

As with all of these rainy hassles, prevention is better than cure. Hygiene and management are key to avoiding the issues and early recognition leads to early resolution and the least amount of discomfort for your horse and strain for your budget. 🐾

WATERPROOFING CHECKLIST:

- Dry surfaces and shelter
- Hygiene and disinfection (brushes, stables, blankets)
- Grooming and cleaning
- Drying off legs and body
- A well-fitted waterproof turnout rug
- Treat early, fix quickly



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WITH ALL OF THESE
RAINY HASSLES,
PREVENTION IS BETTER
THAN CURE

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Horses need
somewhere mud-free
to stand in order to
avoid mud fever and
greasy heel



HEALTH & NUTRITION

HANDLING GRASS ISSUES

HANDLING grass issues

TEXT: MANDY SCHRÖDER
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

Mange, sweet itch and other allergies

Along with our glorious summer weather comes the dreaded mange for those whose horses are susceptible. Seemingly overnight, sleek shiny horses can turn into dull-coated, itching shadows of their former selves. It can be every proud owner's nightmare and it's certainly no fun for the horse either. Imagine being covered in millions of tiny mosquito bites, and you will get an idea

of how a horse suffering from an itchy skin condition feels.

MANGE

Mange is the common name given to parasitic skin diseases caused by mites (arthropods – eight-legged parasites), which cause intense itching and hair loss in the horse. Mites are most active during the hot, dry summer months

and can be found on long grass where they are picked up when contact is made. When the mite attaches itself to the horse's legs and/or face it injects a fluid into the horse's tissue which causes irritation and discomfort. The mite will remain on the horse's skin for a few days before dropping to the ground where it then burrows into the soil and matures into an adult after six weeks.

We're often unaware of how many insects our horses are exposed to every day



HEALTH & NUTRITION

HANDLING GRASS ISSUES

Fly rugs can provide protection against insects



SKRATCH PLUS – WWW.GLOBALHERBS.CO.ZA

- Used primarily in spring and summer.
- Works to maintain normal skin in the most challenging conditions.
- Introduce slowly into the feed, preferably with a palatising agent such as apple juice, cordial or mint.

Leovet Bio Skin Oil helps treat summer eczema, eczema-related swellings, and sweet itch. It's effective against skin irritations that urge itching and regenerates skin and stimulates hair growth in bare patches. The special multi-phase formulation is made up of entirely natural ingredients.

Available from Equimax International. Visit www.equimaxint.co.za to find a stockist near you, or contact 082 785 9017.



Some horses have allergies to biting insects

There are five main types of mange that can affect horses and all require careful and thorough treatment:

- Sarcoptic mange – *Sarcoptes scabiei var equi*
- Psoroptic mange – *Psoroptes equi*
- Chorioptic mange or leg mange – *Chorioptes equi*
- Demodectic mange – *Demodex equi*
- Straw itch mite or forage mite

Symptoms

- Hair loss
- Itching and rubbing
- Stamping of the feet and shaking of the head
- Inflammation of the skin

Treatment

This varies, so discuss it with your vet. It normally involves scrubbing the area with an insecticide horse shampoo repeated weekly or every second week, or the application of an anti-inflammatory antiseptic cream or spray. Your vet may prescribe antibiotics if it is a severe infestation.

Your vet may also administer an injection to

destroy any deeply laid mange eggs buried within the horse's skin.

SWEET ITCH

Sweet itch is caused by a reaction to the saliva in the *Culicoides* midge bite. Alternative names for sweet itch are insect bite hypersensitivity (IBH), Queensland itch, equine summer itch and summer seasonal recurrent dermatitis (SSRD).

Sweet itch shows intense itching followed by ulceration and thickening of the skin as the horse's immune system tries to re-balance the body's over-reaction to the bite.

Treatment

Prevention here is vital as there seems to be no known cure for sweet itch. Fly rugs or insect protection rugs are really important to prevent or limit the bites that a horse experiences.

Midges love rotting vegetation, long grass and standing water. Keep grass short and the yard and paddocks as clean, dry and well cut as possible.

Subsequently, treatment is focused on reducing the itching and discomfort that the horse

experiences. Medicines such as corticosteroids and anti-histamines require assistance and a prescription from your vet.

Many horse owners swear by herbal remedies and one that pops up regularly in connection with sweet itch is Global Herbs Skratch Plus, which is available in South Africa.

HEAD-SHAKING SYNDROME

Head-shaking syndrome has to be one of the most heartbreaking issues to deal with in horses. It is an incredibly complex syndrome with no definitive answers yet. One of the theories is that seasonal allergies have an impact on horses who suffer from this syndrome. Swollen eyes, nose rubbing and violent head-jerking are all symptoms.

This syndrome is not related to allergies alone, and the volume of information surrounding it is vast. Desperate owners have tried many remedies from conventional treatments to allopathic remedies.

Assistance

A product that is often mentioned in assisting those horses with season-sensitive head-shaking is Global Herbs ShakeFree Summer. ShakeFree is traditionally used to support normal behaviour in horses who need assistance with head, nose and eye comfort. ShakeFree works to soothe, relax and transform skin, sensitive membranes and nerves.

Professional advice

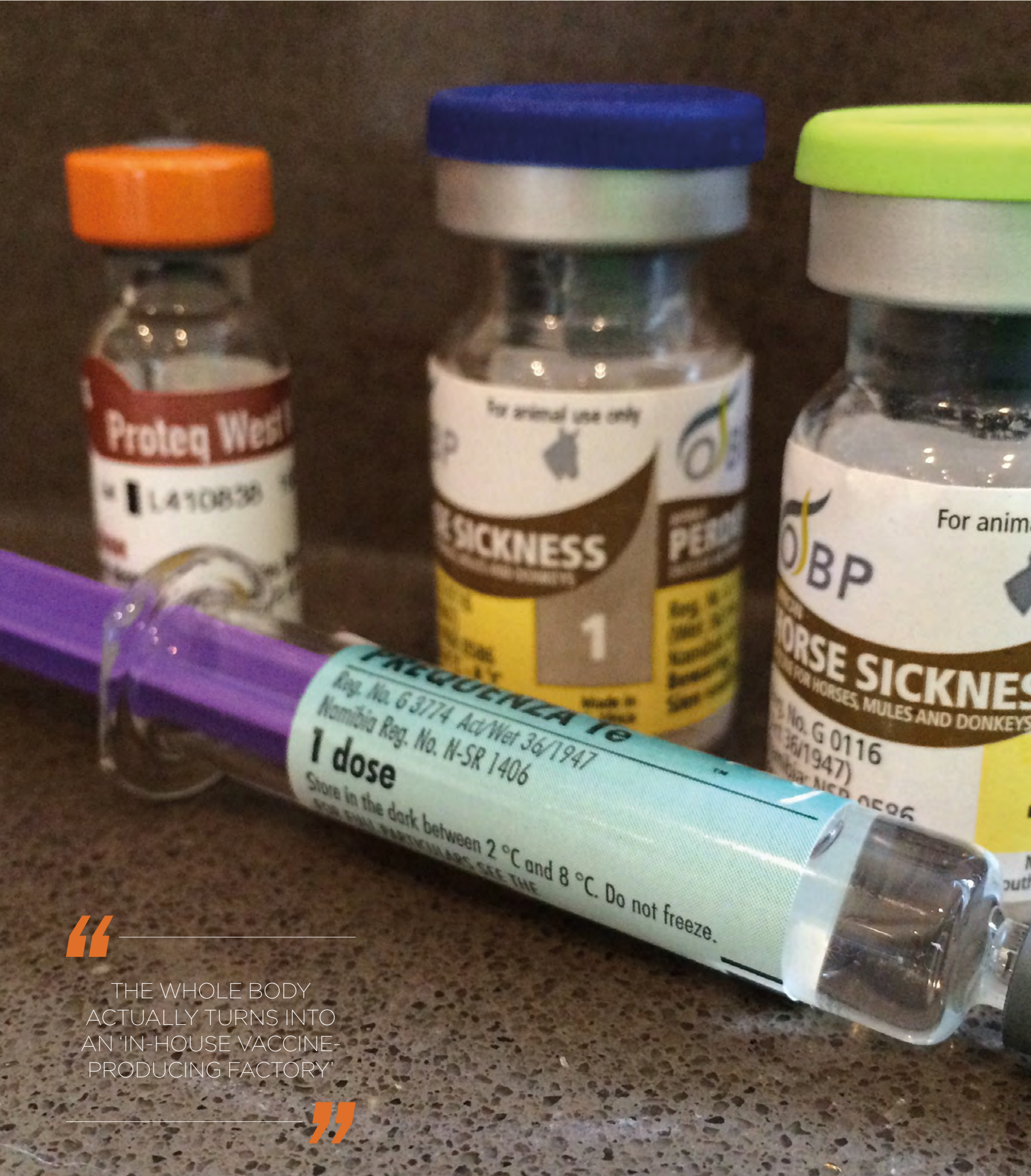
This is a syndrome that definitely relies heavily on support from your vet and other professionals. It may involve all sorts of experimentation and lateral thinking to try and identify what your horse's triggers are. Nose nets often alleviate some of the symptoms of head-shaking syndrome, although to date there is no known cure.

STAY INFORMED

With seasonal irritations, allergies and sensitivities, recognition and prevention are far more beneficial than treatment. Keeping a diary helps to identify the seasonal triggers and warning signs, helping you to prevent the next outbreak. Bug rugs, fly sprays and numerous other products become you and your horse's new best friends while you work to beat the long-grass blues. 🐾

HEALTH & NUTRITION

GETTING TO THE POINT



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THE WHOLE BODY
ACTUALLY TURNS INTO
AN 'IN-HOUSE VACCINE-
PRODUCING FACTORY'

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EXPERT**MONTAGUE N. SAULEZ**

Equine specialist physician, BVSc MS DACVIM DECEIM PhD
Montague practises as an equine specialist physician in the Winelands region of the Western Cape. Winelands Equine Vet provides an extensive mobile specialist medical service (including all endoscopy, digital radiography and ultrasonography) at stable yards. Visit www.winelandsequinevet.co.za for further information or email Montague@winelandsequinevet.co.za.



GETTING TO the point

TEXT: MONTAGUE N. SAULEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

The vaccination debate – a vet's perspective

Prevention of infectious disease by vaccination (also referred to as active immunoprophylaxis) through initiation of a specific immune response is critical to maintaining equine health worldwide.

What does this actually mean for your horse? Following vaccination, your horse is not immediately protected against the specific diseases, but rather develops a protective active immunity. Immunity and active immunologic memory occurs through the recruitment of antibodies and memory cells (lymphocytes and plasma cells) in your horse's bloodstream.

CREATING A VACCINE

Vaccines are developed using different processes. They may contain live viruses that have been attenuated (altered or weakened so as to not cause disease when administered); inactivated or killed organisms or viruses; inactivated products such as toxoids; microbial products; or genetic material (segments of the pathogen). It is interesting to note that due to viruses being less complex, active immunisation is extremely effective against viruses compared with bacteria, fungi and protozoan diseases.

TYPES OF VACCINES

A look at the various types of vaccines in more detail:

Live, attenuated vaccines contain parts of a living microbe that stimulate strong antibody responses allowing for lifelong immunity with fewer doses needed to immunise a horse. However, it is important to note the microbe may mutate, becoming virulent and may actually cause disease, death and vaccine-related outbreaks! Animals with weakened immune response (older horses and those with concurrent disease) are more at risk and should therefore not receive this type of vaccine. In addition, live, attenuated

vaccines require cold storage in order to maintain efficacy. African Horse Sickness (AHS) vaccine is an example of a live, attenuated vaccine.

Recombinant vector vaccines (live vaccines) are quite similar to DNA vaccines but use weakened bacteria or viruses (also called vectors) to introduce the microbe's genetic material into the body's own cells. Such an example includes the West Nile virus (WNV) vaccine.

Inactivated vaccines (dead vaccines) contain disease-causing microbes that have been killed by chemical, heat or radiation processes and are the most common form of equine vaccine currently used. Unlike live, attenuated vaccines, the microbes cannot mutate to a disease-causing state, thus making inactivated vaccines more stable and ultimately safer to use.

Inactivated vaccines are therefore readily used for prophylaxis, particularly in pregnant mares, weakened horses, horses who are immunocompromised and in foals with failure of passive transfer. However, inactivated vaccines stimulate a weaker immune response and require multiple doses in the primary series as well as regular boosters at frequent intervals in order to maintain a horse's immunity. This type of vaccine doesn't normally require refrigeration. An example of an inactivated vaccine is the rabies vaccine.

Subunit vaccines (dead vaccines) contain only a portion of the microbe that is most antigenic. Because only essential antigens are incorporated into a subunit vaccine, adverse reactions are rare. This type of vaccine is time-consuming to manufacture, as specific antigens need to be identified and incorporated into the vaccine. Subunit vaccines are safe to use and do not cause disease. Tetanus vaccine is an example of a subunit vaccine.

Toxoid vaccines are used when bacterial toxins are the main cause of disease. Chemical processes



HEALTH & NUTRITION

GETTING TO THE POINT

are used (formalin and sterilised water are added to the specific toxin) to inactivate a toxin, therefore making the toxoid vaccine safe to use.

DNA vaccines currently reflect the pinnacle of vaccine technology. Using the microbe's own genetic material, DNA vaccines cause the body's own cells to make antigen molecules thereby stimulating the immune system. The whole body actually turns into an 'in-house vaccine-producing factory'! DNA vaccines evoke very strong antibody and cellular responses. Unlike live, attenuated vaccines, DNA vaccines do not cause disease and can overcome maternally derived immunity in foals. WNV vaccine is also available as a DNA vaccine.

Marker vaccines are required when, during disease outbreaks, differentiation is needed between animals infected by naturally occurring disease versus horses with vaccine-induced disease. Marker vaccines are being developed for equine viral arteritis.

PASSIVE IMMUNISATION

Instead of actively vaccinating horses, **passive immunisation** can be provided to horses through the use of serum or plasma products from hyperimmune donors. Exogenous antibodies are transferred through serum or plasma products intravenously into the susceptible foal or horse, providing temporary protection during high-risk situations. Failure of passive transfer is a great example of passive immunisation in foals. Plasma products are administered intravenously in colostrum-deprived foals so that low immunoglobulin G (IgG) concentrations may be increased. Similar products are available abroad for *Clostridium botulinum* type B, *E. coli*, *Rhodococcus equi* pneumonia and tetanus.

PROTOCOLS

There is no standard protocol and individual programmes are dependent on the disease prevalence (outbreak versus few affected horses), disease severity (morbidity versus mortality), population demographics (age, breed, sex and use of horse) and the actual vaccine (availability, cost, ease of use and side effects). More specifically vaccination programmes should be tailored to the geographical location of the horse, diseases likely to be encountered, the horse's lifestyle, and direct contact with other horses as well as the horse's intended use.

Vaccines should be administered by qualified individuals



WHICH VACCINATIONS SHOULD YOU CONSIDER FOR YOUR HORSE?

Core vaccinations (vaccine selected based on endemic diseases in a specific region that are contagious and pose serious risk of severe disease) should include AHS, equine influenza, rabies, tetanus and WNV.

- Protection against **AHS** is similar to other vector-mediated diseases and attention should be focused on strict control of insects as well as vaccination. A polyvalent vaccine is available as two components (trivalent contains serotypes 1, 3 and 4; and quadrivalent contains serotypes 2, 6, 7 and 8) and should be administered at least 21 days apart.
- **Equine influenza** is one of the most common respiratory tract infections in horses. Typically, it is introduced to breeding farms and training facilities by an infected individual horse. Twice annual vaccination for adult horses is recommended and broodmares should receive a booster vaccine (inactivated product) six weeks before foaling.

- Although the incidence of **rabies** is low, the disease is fatal and is of great public health concern. Wildlife species can serve as natural reservoirs for rabies. It is important that horses kept in regions where rabies is endemic in wildlife, be vaccinated once annually. Broodmares should be vaccinated before the breeding season.
- **Tetanus** can affect all horses, is often near fatal and is caused by the neurotoxin produced by the spore-forming bacterium *Clostridium tetani*. Horses should receive boosters annually (some manufacturers include tetanus and equine influenza in the same vaccine) and broodmares can be vaccinated eight weeks before foaling. A booster should be administered after any penetrating trauma wound is sustained.
- Transmitted by biting mosquitoes, **WNV** is a growing concern in South Africa and causes isolated outbreaks of neurological disease in horses. Annual vaccination of adult horses and broodmares is recommended in spring prior to the onset of the mosquito vector season.



◀ Active immunisation is extremely effective against viruses compared with bacteria, fungi and protozoan diseases

Risk-based vaccinations (vaccine selected based on a risk assessment) should include botulism, equine herpes virus (EHV) and *Streptococcus equi* (strangles).

- **Botulism** is caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* and affects foals from two weeks of age up to eight months. A toxoid vaccine is available abroad and is effective against *C. botulinum* type B. Broodmares should be vaccinated six weeks before foaling while foals should receive their vaccination between one and three months after birth.
- **EHV -1 and -4** cause upper respiratory tract disease (equine rhinopneumonitis) and EHV -1 is responsible for abortions and neurological disease too. Horses on breeding and training farms should be vaccinated against both viruses.
- **Strangles** is endemic in South Africa and vaccination is a rather contentious matter. The bacterium is highly contagious, mostly affects young horses and spreads by direct contact with infected horses or indirectly through contaminated tack, stalls, trailers and feeding troughs. The use of any available vaccine is not recommended due to the ubiquitous nature of *Streptococcus equi*, and the high risk of immune-mediated vasculitis (purpura hemorrhagica).

THE BENEFITS

It should be noted that vaccination reduces morbidity (lessens disease severity and associated clinical symptoms), but doesn't prevent mortality. Despite having a fully up-to-date vaccination history, a horse may still acquire a disease and die. Vaccination programmes should be implemented in conjunction with good management practices and with the assistance of your local veterinarian. Primary and booster vaccinations should be administered prior to expected disease exposure. A suitably qualified person should always

administer a licensed product. Adverse reactions may occur (especially to modified-live vaccines) despite appropriate administration and handling of the vaccine.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

What will happen in the future – at least in human medicine? The discipline of **vaccinomics** (vaccinology directed by genomics) will create personalised, precision vaccines which may protect higher proportions of population with minimal side effects and at a lower cost. Vaccines will be tailored to an individual's gene sequence and be delivered at a specific concentration – not too little or too much. There is also a growing discipline of **adversomics** that attempts to understand vaccine-related adverse effects. Vaccinations may also be administered quite differently than today. Already, inhaled vaccines (such as influenza vaccine) are available as a nasal spray for humans. Patch applications containing a matrix of tiny needles may administer the vaccine without the use of a syringe. Maintaining the cold chain is currently a concern as cold storage of vaccines may not be possible in remote regions. In fact, the success of the smallpox vaccine in remote areas was due to its ability to be stored at relatively high temperatures.

HORSE BUSINESS

Back to horses again, spring is here and with warmer weather rapidly approaching, so too is the increased risk of infectious disease due to biting insects. Remember to employ effective strategies to reduce exposure to mosquitoes and *Culicoides* midges and have a good vaccination plan in place to provide maximum protection for your horses. Remember, you can vaccinate against many diseases, but that doesn't mean you should – more is not necessarily better. 🐾

BROODMARE CARE



Very few vaccines are licensed for use in pregnant mares

Vaccination programmes for broodmares must carry a low risk to the pregnancy and be safe for the foetus. Due to high embryonic loss taking place in the first few weeks of pregnancy, vaccination should not be performed during the first 90 days of gestation.

It has become common practice worldwide to vaccinate for EHV -1 and -4, equine influenza, WNV, rabies and tetanus. Typically many broodmares receive numerous vaccinations and booster vaccinations yearly in order to optimise colostral transfer of antibodies to their offspring. While this may be seen to create a great advantage for the foal, broodmares may unnecessarily be exposed to a greater degree of systemic reactions that are completely unwarranted. Latest reports indicate that maternal antibodies may negatively impact and actually inhibit a foal's immune system. Therefore it is important to delay the use of inactivated vaccines until the foal is at least six months old.

Proper management processes include vaccinating and boosting (if required) the pregnant mare before foaling, ensuring a clean foaling-down stable, adequate colostral transfer of antibodies after birth (measure the IgG concentration to confirm adequate levels), and starting foal vaccination after the risk of maternal antibody interference is no longer present. Remember, vaccination should not be considered a remedy for poor management practices.

Regardless of the temperaments involved, it is ultimately the connection between horse and rider that is most important





TEXT: MANDY SCHRÖDER
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

Nature VS nurture

Can a horse be 'born bad'?

Does your horse have a natural tendency towards specific types of behaviour, or are his responses moulded by influences in his lifetime? Can the right handling cure the 'bad' horse or are some destined to be difficult forever?

Understanding is key to successful partnerships. *HQ* looks at current research and different views on personality typing and leaves it to you to match yourself with the temperament that you are best able to cope with.

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE

Whether you call it temperament or personality, it determines how your horse learns and his ability to adapt to situations, as well as rider suitability.

About five years ago Lea Lansade, PhD, of the French Horse and Riding Institute (IFCE) and the National Institute for Agricultural Research's (INRA) behaviour science department in Tours, France, developed an equine personality test. Lansade's Complete Temperament Test [1] is designed to measure five areas of equine personality at a young age (as young as eight months):

- Fear/susceptibility to emotions
- Gregariousness (sociability with other horses)
- Sensorial (tactile) sensitivity
- Reactivity to humans
- Locomotor activity

The Complete Temperament Test was very time-consuming and expensive to conduct so as recently as March 2015, she released information on her new, shorter Simplified Temperament Test [2]. It may not be as thorough as the complete test but it is proving to be accurate, reliable and more time efficient to conduct. "There is no good or bad temperament in horses," said Lansade. "Just temperaments that are more or less suited to specific disciplines and situations."

Once all the tests are completed, the researchers analyse the scores and results according to a specific calculation to develop specific results on each horse's temperament. Unlike the complete test, the simplified test can be carried out in-hand with a halter.



Curiosity is often said to be a sign of intelligence and bravery

The steps of the simplified test included:

- Tactile stimulus test – where the horse is touched at the wither with a special type of flexible stick.
- Unknown object test – the horse is asked to approach a red and grey plastic canvas.
- Unknown surface test – the horse is asked to cross a plastic sheet.
- Suddenness test – the horse is exposed to an umbrella opened quickly.
- Behaviour test – the horse's behaviour is observed while his height is measured with a measuring stick.

After extensive testing, the team concluded that the simplified test is as good as the complete test although limited to three aspects of equine personality:

- Susceptibility to emotions
- Sensorial sensitivity
- Locomotor activity

It was also decided though that these three aspects are sufficient to provide a basic view of the horse's personality.

JUMPING TEMPERAMENT

For the competitive showjumper, they interestingly found a correlation between certain temperament parameters and jumping performance. Lansade determined that horses who were more emotional, and to a certain extent more active, were much more difficult to manage, although they were also the horses with the fewest penalties in jumping competitions.

"This paradox might be explained by the fact that highly emotional horses, even if they're more challenging to ride, are also more respectful of the bars (jump poles), making greater efforts to avoid touching them," Lansade said. "This helps explain why professional riders tend to seek high-strung horses for their jumping events."

Lansade also stated that to get accurate results it is imperative to use trained assessors when using these tests.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

In their research paper *Psychological factors affecting equine performance* [3], co-authors Sebastian D McBride and Daniel S Mills examine some very interesting points of view. They state that psychological factors exist at three separate but inter-related levels:

- Temperament – fairly stable into adult life, shaped by genetics and early life experience.
- Mood – a temporary psychological state



Can horses be 'born bad' or are some temperaments simply better suited to different types of equestrians?

which affects behavioural choices in specific environments, for example a 'bad' mood may lead to avoidance or resistant behaviour.

- Emotional reaction – the most severely affected by outside stimuli and tends to be affected by mood.

There is very little scientific research governing emotional reactions in horses and none on mood assessment.

HORSENALITY™

Whether you are a fan of 'natural horsemanship' or not, we have to respect that Linda and Pat Parelli were among the first to identify and name certain personalities in horses, purely as a simple 'How to' guide for the lay person to better understand their horses with the ultimate goal of happy horse/human partnerships. Even if you aren't a Parelli practitioner, using their simple guides on dealing with the different personality types is useful and beneficial to horses.

They devised a working model of horse temperaments called Horsenality [4] to assist people with identifying their horse's personality type and how to work with them. A quote from their website explains: "With Horsenality, you can quickly identify your horse's innate characteristics and introduce specific strategies for bringing out the best in your horse." They add: "To become the perfect partners for our horses, we need to understand them. Horsenality is the ultimate catalyst for understanding."

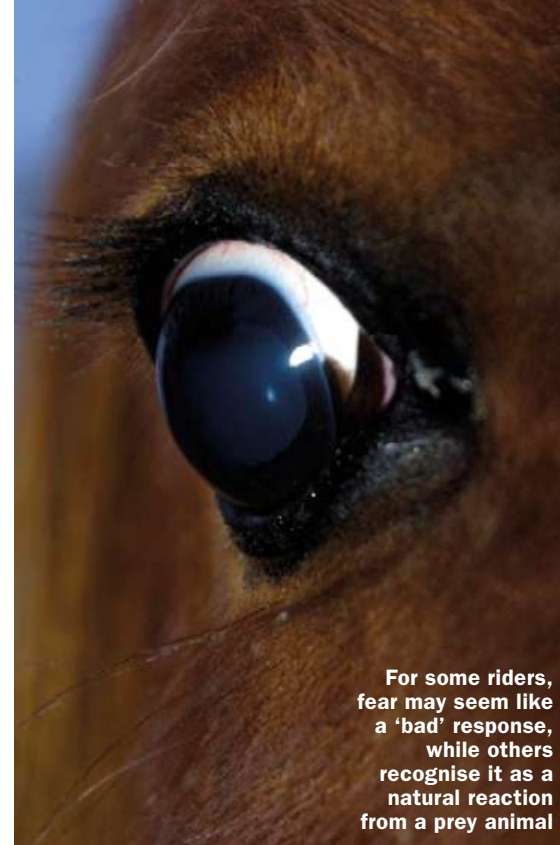
TEMPERAMENT TACTICS

If a horse who has always been willing to work suddenly becomes tricky and unreliable, it becomes the rider's and trainer's responsibility to identify why. It could be because the training regime is applying too much pressure to the horse, or it could be a warning that physically something is a bit off. Horses have no way to tell us that something is wrong except to object to doing that which hurts them.

If a horse is born with a particularly tricky temperament or has had a particularly bad start in life, then they should really only be worked with by the best professionals who are empathic and sensitive with a sound understanding of horses both emotionally and psychologically.

CONFORMATION LIMITATIONS

Conformation can also be a contributory factor to temperament. A good example is a horse who is built croup high being put under tremendous pressure to sit and lower his croup to the extent required for high level dressage. His conformation makes doing this more difficult, which in turn puts more pressure on him psychologically, which could lead to outbursts of temperament or emotion. That is not to say that a croup high horse can't do high level dressage, it just means that possibly the training approach has to be innovative, using lateral thinking, and that the horse has to be willing and enjoy what he does.



For some riders, fear may seem like a 'bad' response, while others recognise it as a natural reaction from a prey animal

SUCCESS COMPETITIVELY

One of the reasons that professional riders are so successful is their inherent understanding of the 'type' of horse that works well for them. They have over the years, through trial and error, worked out what horse personality and type work well with their own temperament and riding style; their power also lies in their ability to let go when the match isn't a good one. Instead of persevering and hammering away at a less than perfect partnership, they choose to move on to a horse better suited to their requirements.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is the rider who loves their one special horse, no matter how unsuitable he may be, who through sheer determination finds tools to create an understanding and a working relationship with their chosen partner. There are also many talented riders who enjoy working with 'problem' horses; who thrive on unravelling the issues, whether man-made or natural. They are naturally empathic and sensitive and thrive on the level of communication that they create with the horses they work with. Thankfully this gives many 'difficult' horses a second chance at life. 🐾

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- [2] Christa Lesté-Lasserre, MA, *Researchers Debut Simplified Temperament Test*, May 16, 2015, www.thehorse.com
- [3] Sebastian D McBride and Daniel S Mills, *Psychological factors affecting equine performance*, BMC Veterinary Research, Journal List, v 8, 2012, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3514365/http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/
- [4] Pat and Linda Parelli, *Horsenality*, www.parelli.com

TEXT: CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE
PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/KIT HOUGHTON, SPRUCE MEADOWS MEDIA SERVICES, CEALY TETLEY

Hickstead

The small horse who made big waves



FACT FILE

Name: Hickstead
Sire: Hamlet
Dam: Jomara
Grandsire: Mimmerdor
Maternal grandsire: Ekstein
Gender: Stallion
Country of origin: Belgium
Colour: Bay
Height: 16hh
Total earnings: +/- R38,745,426.40



Eric and Hickstead capturing team silver and individual gold medals at the 2008 Olympic Games



Eric Lamaze and Hickstead – the little horse with the big heart

Hickstead was a Dutch Warmblood born on 2 March 1996. He died on 6 November 2011. This famous stallion was owned by Torrey Pines and Ashland Stables Inc. and ridden by the talented Canadian showjumper, Eric Lamaze. Hickstead's is the story of a horse who didn't seem to measure up, but whose true talent lay in the showjumping arena.

DYNAMITE COMES IN SMALL PACKAGES

Standing at 16hh, Hickstead wasn't a very big horse. He was roughly four inches shorter than an international-calibre competition horse. Hickstead did not make it into the Dutch Warmblood horse registry initially. Fortunately, Eric Lamaze saw what others did not: talent. Lamaze noticed Hickstead's immense power, despite his small size. He was able to stretch his body to clear the higher jumps or could lean back onto his hocks just enough to project himself at the right angle. Hickstead wasn't expected to excel but much to everyone's surprise, the pair went on to compete at Olympic level.

It wasn't an immediate love affair, however. Lamaze needed some convincing to buy the horse and at times it was thought that he would simply be too difficult. Among other things, Hickstead objected to water. "Many times I gave up and thought it was never going to work," he said. "We really thought his character would stop him from being a great horse."

TOUGH STREAK

Fortunately the team seemed to share a common tough streak that simply worked and they

formed a bond that few could ignore. Some even described Hickstead behaving like a happy dog when his owner arrived on the scene. "They grew together, they became one personality," said Jerome Caron, Hickstead's groom and Lamaze's barn manager. "Both were short and pretty nervy, full of muscle."

In spite of being 'feisty', Hickstead was very sociable for a stallion and yearned for company, even becoming worried if he was left alone. Not only did he enjoy being with other horses, but also liked to 'cuddle' with his human companions. Yet in the arena, he was a ferocious competitor.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

This competitive streak paid off. Hickstead's career with Lamaze was studded with highlights. In 2006 they placed third in the Aachen Grand Prix, won the Duke Energy Cup at Spruce Meadows, and formed part of the winning Nations Cup Team. In 2007 they won the \$1 million CN International at the Spruce Meadows 'Masters' Tournament in Calgary, Canada. At the Pan Am Games, the pair took home team silver and individual bronze medals. In 2008 the pair really proved their mettle, competing at the Beijing Olympic Games and winning the first equestrian individual gold medal, as well as team silver.

In 2010 the pair went on to become champions of the Rolex Grand Prix at CHIO Aachen: World Equestrian Festival. The equestrian world sat up and took notice: that year Hickstead was awarded the title of 'Best Horse in the World' at the Altech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky. They didn't rest on their

laurels, however – the next year Hickstead and Lamaze won the \$1 million CN International for a second time and came second in the FEI World Cup Jumping Final in Leipzig, Germany. And then tragedy struck.

TRAGIC DEATH

On 6 November 2011, Hickstead was competing in Verona, Italy. He collapsed after finishing a showjumping round and died of an aortic rupture; his huge heart ultimately killed him. An emotional Lamaze described to fans that even in his final moments he was looking after his rider.

"I think he collapsed in a way that he made sure that he did not injure me in the process," he said at a press conference after the event, adding that the horse had 'made' his career. "It's not like breaking a hockey stick or breaking a tennis racket for us ... we become very close to these animals and have great respect for what they do for us."

The equestrian community was shocked by the news of his sudden death. Hickstead was a showjumping champion and legend, who will be fondly remembered for his fighting spirit, quirky personality and unbeatable talent. 🐾

NAME GAME

Hickstead was actually named Opel at birth, but was renamed to share the same first initial as his father, Hamlet. His then-owner named him after his favoured showjumping centre in England. But those who loved him called him 'Sticks' – and he would respond to the name with a whinny.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY:
CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE

A LITTLE PIECE OF heaven

A visit to Cadence Equine Centre



“

HAPPY HORSES
INVARIABLY ADD UP TO
HAPPY OWNERS

”

Set in Pretoria East, Cadence Equine Centre is a peaceful yard that shares a property with a five-star wedding venue. The yard originally accommodated racing Thoroughbreds until it was bought by David Georgiades. David converted the yard into a livery and built onto it over the years. Thirty years later, it's still operating successfully.

The centre is renowned for its serene atmosphere, superb facilities and quality of care provided for the resident horses. *HQ* chatted to Zaneta Georgiades, David's daughter and the yard's resident instructor, about the day-to-day running of Cadence Equine Centre.

Paddocks line the driveway so horses can greet visitors to the yard



René de Beer and her team, Thomas Mutsenhure, Erin Austin, Moffat Mpalani, Deluxe Mubango and Masango Mushongayora

FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Any yard can look pretty upon appearance, but when it comes down to the quality of care provided to horses and their owners, one needs to take a closer look at the stable management.

René de Beer is the stable manager who runs the yard with precision – a throwback no doubt to her nursing degree. René also has 33 years

of experience and her equestrian passion has given her a natural feel for horses. Together with five grooms, the team ensures that every horse receives individual attention.

Zaneta tells *HQ*: “Our grooms are all horsemen in their own right and they take pride in their work. They genuinely care about the horses and handle them with respect.”

HORSES COME FIRST

The main priority of the team is the happiness and welfare of their equine charges and management believes this begins with nutrition. Good health starts from the inside out and a good, well-balanced diet influences your horse's feet, coat, condition and athletic performance. “The horses' nutrition is very important to us, therefore high-quality feed is used and all of the meals are weighed and prepared by the stable manager herself every day,” says Zaneta. Paddock rotation ensures that the horses have access to good grazing throughout the year, including during the winter season.

When the horses come in for the evening, they're welcomed by spacious stables topped with thick and clean bedding, two buckets of water, and enough grass to last the night.

“

... A HORSE IS A HORSE,
WHETHER HE'S A HAPPY
HACKER OR AN OPEN
SHOWJUMPER

”

THE IMPORTANCE OF Paddock TIME

The horses are turned out into large paddocks from 7:30am to 4pm, where they are allowed to live naturally in a herd environment. Horses are social animals by nature, so it's important to allow them paddock time to be with their friends and to blow off steam if they need to. At the end of the day, a horse is a horse, whether he's a happy hacker or an Open showjumper. Riders at Cadence invariably find that extra time spent turned out in the paddock influences the horse's happiness to work and please.

For those concerned about injuries sustained in the paddocks, liberty time is managed with caution. “Much care is taken to slowly introduce horses into their respective herds to prevent any injuries,” says Zaneta.

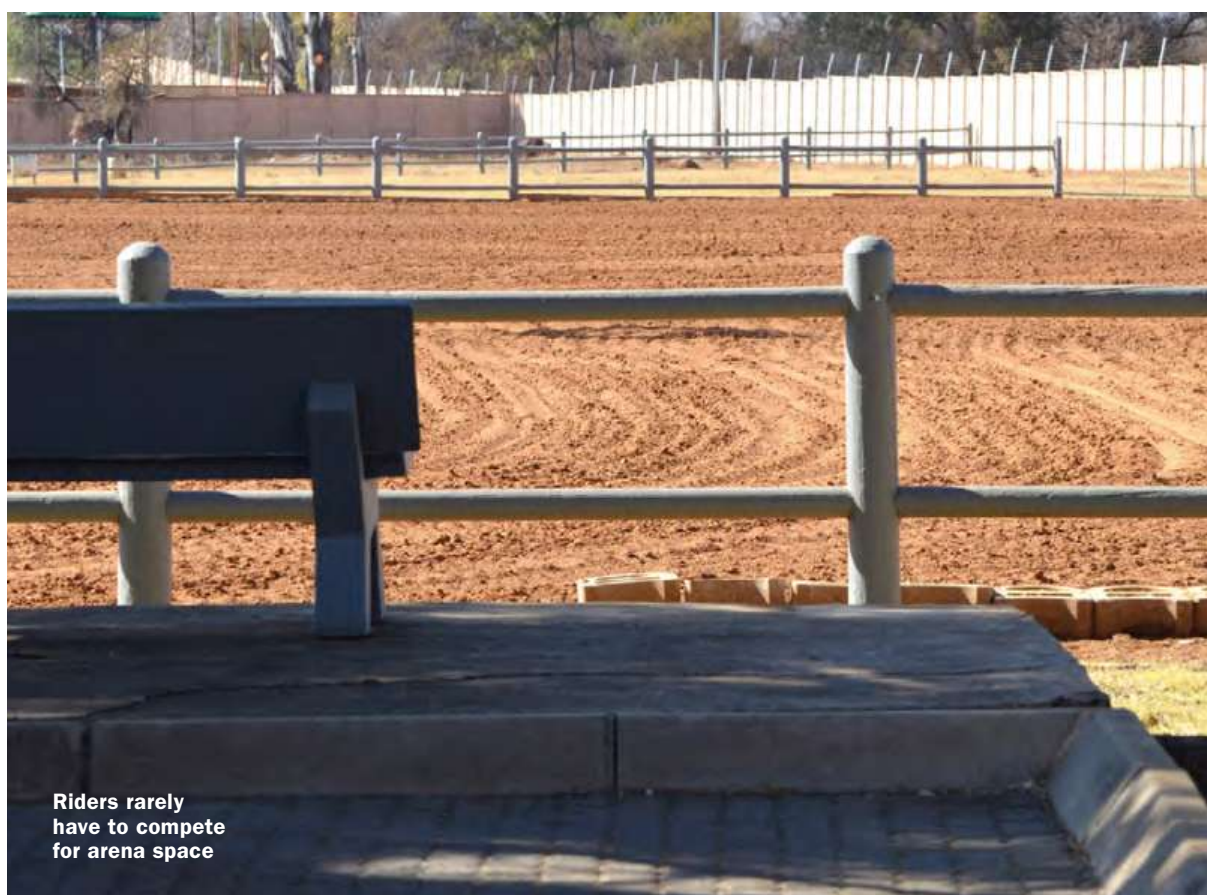
Once a racing yard, now home to happy livery horses



PHENOMENAL FACILITIES

Cadence Equine Centre takes pride in catering for all types of clients. The yard has facilities for showjumpers, dressage riders and liberty work – all within a safe and secure property. “Everyone from competitive riders to owners who simply want to go for outrides are welcome,” says Zaneta. Facilities include:

- Thirty-one traditional stables (3.5m x 4m)
- Two tidy tack rooms (each rider has their own saddle rack, bridle hook and locker)
- Three outdoor wash bays
- One indoor wash bay with warm water
- One large sand jumping arena (80m x 55m) with a fenced-off jumping lane
- One small dressage arena (40m x 20m) with a track on the outside
- Two large dressage arenas (60m x 20m)
- One double lunge ring (30m)
- One lunge ring (22m)
- One extra-large paddock (550m x 180m) where the main herd stands
- Three medium paddocks (150m x 150m)

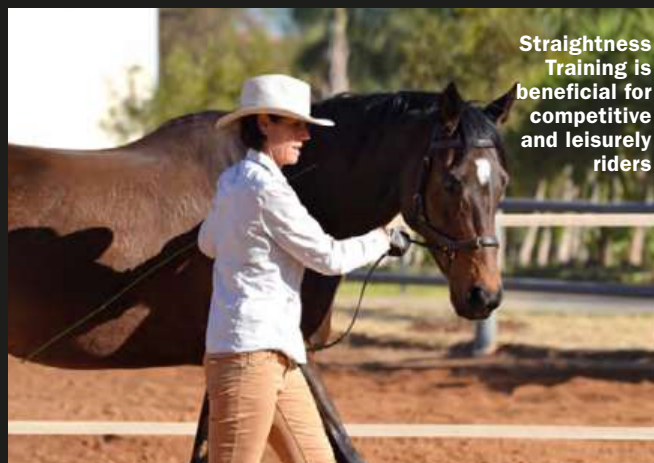


Riders rarely have to compete for arena space



Crownlands Dream Time is growing up happily and healthily

New horses are slowly introduced over the fence before joining the herd



Straightness Training is beneficial for competitive and leisurely riders



Anna Kotze and her horse, Modest Tess, enjoying a Straightness Training lesson with Zaneta

These facilities ensure that riders rarely have to compete for arena space while the variety allows riders to mix up their schooling routines. Benches and sitting areas under shady trees accommodate those who are accompanying riders or want to spectate schooling sessions. Outrides are another highlight. Outside the gates riders have access to tracks through the veld which are great for fitness as well as relaxing hacks. The yard is also situated within a short distance of various show venues, which is convenient for competitive riders.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Although own instructors are welcome, Zaneta is the resident instructor at Cadence Equine Centre. Zaneta specialises in straightness training, a discipline that was developed by Marijke de Jong from the Netherlands, as well as her own Dance in Freedom liberty work. Zaneta explains that this work is valuable for any horse and rider, whether they are competitive or not. Liberty work is beneficial for developing balance, a sense of softness, and a harmonious

relationship between horse and rider.

Cadence Equine Centre hosts international instructors twice a year for clinics in straightness training. The clinics are a great success and horse owners from all over the country make their way to the yard to participate or spectate.

SAFE HAVEN

It's not easy to trust someone else to care for your horse around the clock. Luckily, Cadence Equine Centre residents are in safe hands under the watchful eye of the Georgiades family and René's superb team. Horses at the yard are truly happy with their freedom of space, the peaceful environment and positive attitude towards being with people. Zaneta explains, "We uphold a friendly, relaxed atmosphere while remaining organised and professional." Cadence Equine Centre is proof that good stable management and the horses' best interests can go a long way to maintaining equine happiness – and happy horses invariably add up to happy owners. 🐾

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Coming from a competitive background, I was dismally confused by straightness training when I had my first lesson with Zaneta. My first misconception was that this was something for the 'bunny-huggers', and I could not have been more wrong. I am still riding competitively, but since having started my lessons with Zaneta, I have a far deeper understanding of horses and how we need to fit in with them rather than the other way around. I have found a way to communicate more clearly and fairly with my horses. Straightness training has developed my horse's balance, responsiveness, and he has become wonderfully light. This has been valuable training alongside my ridden work.

In an upcoming issue, *HQ* will explore the technique of straightness training in more detail.

THE HORSES ARE GOING TO THE GREEN

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BREEDERS'

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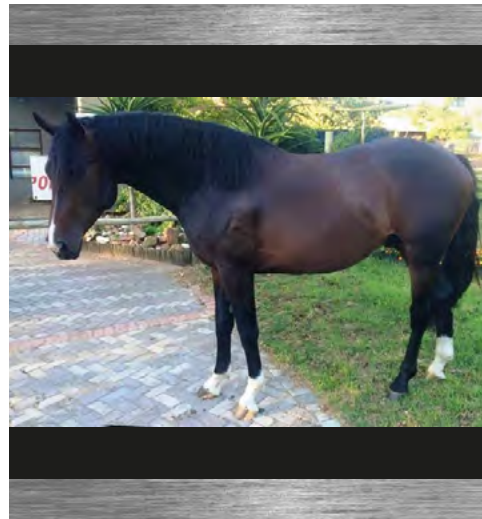


Platinum COLLECTION

South African horses are rapidly reaching world-class standards. In recognition of the hard work and dedication of the breeders who have produced these exceptional athletes, HQ has introduced the Platinum Collection, for horses who have earned the right to be marketed at prices of R150,000 and over. Your future champion could be on this page.



Saratoga Starry Starry Night
Age: **Rising 3**
Gender: **Gelding**
Colour: **Tobiano**
Breed: **SAW**
Height: **15.3hh (still growing)**
Sire: **Waldemar G**
Dam: **Saratoga Skaramouche**
Outstanding gelding by Waldemar G, out of a Carrick mare. Exceptionally well-bred horse with the temperament and ability to make a top competition horse.
Price: **R150,000**
Contact: **Kim Bray on 084 406 9610**



All That Jazz
Age: **4**
Gender: **Stallion**
Colour: **Dark bay**
Breed: **WB**
Height: **16.2hh**
Sire: **All Star Seto**
Dam: **Seine**
This gorgeous horse will end up being around 17hh. He has had a saddle on his back but is not backed yet. Excellent movement and an even better free jump. The sale is rather urgent as owner's work hours are preventing him from producing him and he feels he is going to waste. Competitive home only as he is going to be a remarkable all-round competition horse. Small video clips available to serious buyers only.
Price: **R150,000**
Contact: **Krizelda Carelse on 079 807 7497**



Rooigras Obelix
Age: **8**
Gender: **Gelding**
Colour: **Fleabitten grey**
Breed: **Boerperd**
Height: **14.3hh**
Sire: **Lang-Carel Opperman**
Dam: **Carel Hancke Jube**
Obelix is an ideal first or second pony. He is gentle and easygoing with any young or novice rider, but also performs well at top level for the ambitious rider who wants to go to the top. Obelix is currently doing Open eventing, Elementary dressage, Intermediate equitation and 1.00m showjumping. He has jumped 1.10m. Rider has sadly outgrown him. He has absolutely no vices.
Price: **R180,000 neg**
Contact: **Iris on 084 433 0222**



Gabriella of Millford Stb Star
Age: **Rising 5**
Gender: **Mare**
Colour: **Black**
Breed: **Friesian**
Height: **15.3hh but still growing**
Sire: **Tjalf 443 Stb Sport**
Dam: **Tamara PJ Stb Ster**
Gabriella of Millford is a beautiful, locally bred, Studbook Star mare. She is a very pretty mare with all the fine features of a modern Friesian. She is sensitive to ride, making her very responsive and light. This mare's natural movement will make her a magnificent dressage horse.
Price: **R170,000**
Contact: **Kate Baynes on 082 774 1394 or millfordfarm@yebo.co.za**



El Encanto Encantada
Age: **11**
Gender: **Mare**
Colour: **Bay**
Breed: **Anglo Hispanic**
Height: **15.1hh**
Sire: **Carlo 1**
Dam: **P.A.S Juanita**
Registered with Dressage South Africa. Competing very successfully in adult EM, always in the tickets. Ready to upgrade. Superb temperament and outstanding movement.
Price: **R160,000**
Contact: **Claudia Privato on 082 883 7407**



Capital Zanzibar
Age: **7**
Breed: **SAW**
Gender: **Gelding**
Colour: **Bay**
Height: **15.2hh**
Sire: **Zingaro v/d Helle**
Dam: **Sweetheart**
Capital Zanzibar has competed up to 1.10m and has been placed in showing shows (including HOY). He does flying changes and lateral work. He is extremely scopey and brave. This horse will jump up the grades and is suitable for a junior or small adult rider.
Price: **R300,000**
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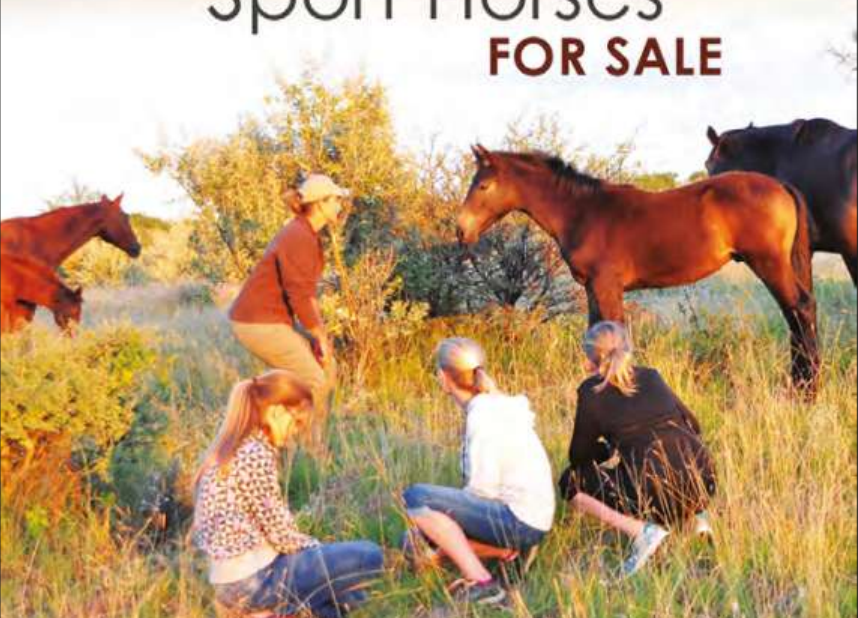


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THE Suffolk Punch

Heavy duty

“ WHEN APPLIED TO THE SUFFOLK PUNCH, TRADITIONALLY THE SPELLING OF CHESTNUT IS MINUS THE ‘T’ – CHESNUT

”

The Suffolk Punch is viewed by enthusiasts as the horse which shaped Britain's social history. These gentle giants pulled ploughs, cut corn and drew wheat to the mills to feed residents. They have also been used for transport, forestry, in the artillery and more recently in commercials – no doubt a testament to their beauty.

The oldest breed of heavy horse in Great Britain, the Suffolk Punch dates from the 16th century, but all animals alive today trace their male lines back to one stallion, a horse called Crisp's Horse of Ufford, who was foaled in 1768. The breed

originated in the 1600s in the East Anglian region of Suffolk, hence the first half of its name. The term Punch applies to his strength and solid appearance.

Despite the centuries since their inception, they remain true to their original characteristics and are admired for their solid good looks. They generally stand 16.1 to 17.2hh and weigh 900 to 1,000kg. They are always chestnut in colour, ranging from liver to red to bright; white markings are rare.

The Suffolk Punch has a powerful, arching neck, well-muscled, sloping shoulders, a short,

wide back and a muscular, broad croup. Legs are short and strong with broad joints, sound, well-formed hooves and little or no feathering.

Powerful yet good-natured, these horses excel at hard work and are valued as good doers. In spite of being coldbloods, they are also known for having energetic gaits. Although once one of the most popular breeds in Great Britain, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust of the UK considers their current survival status critical. In 2014 the Suffolk Horse Society registered 32 foals – 20 colts and 12 fillies. 🐾

For more information visit suffolkhorsesociety.org.uk.

INTERESTING FACT

The lighter feathers on the Suffolk horse's feet makes him the ideal horse in East Anglia where the heavy clay soil can clog up the feet of more feathered breeds.





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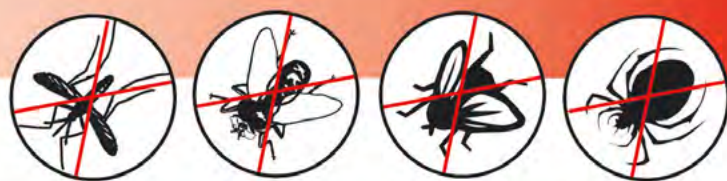
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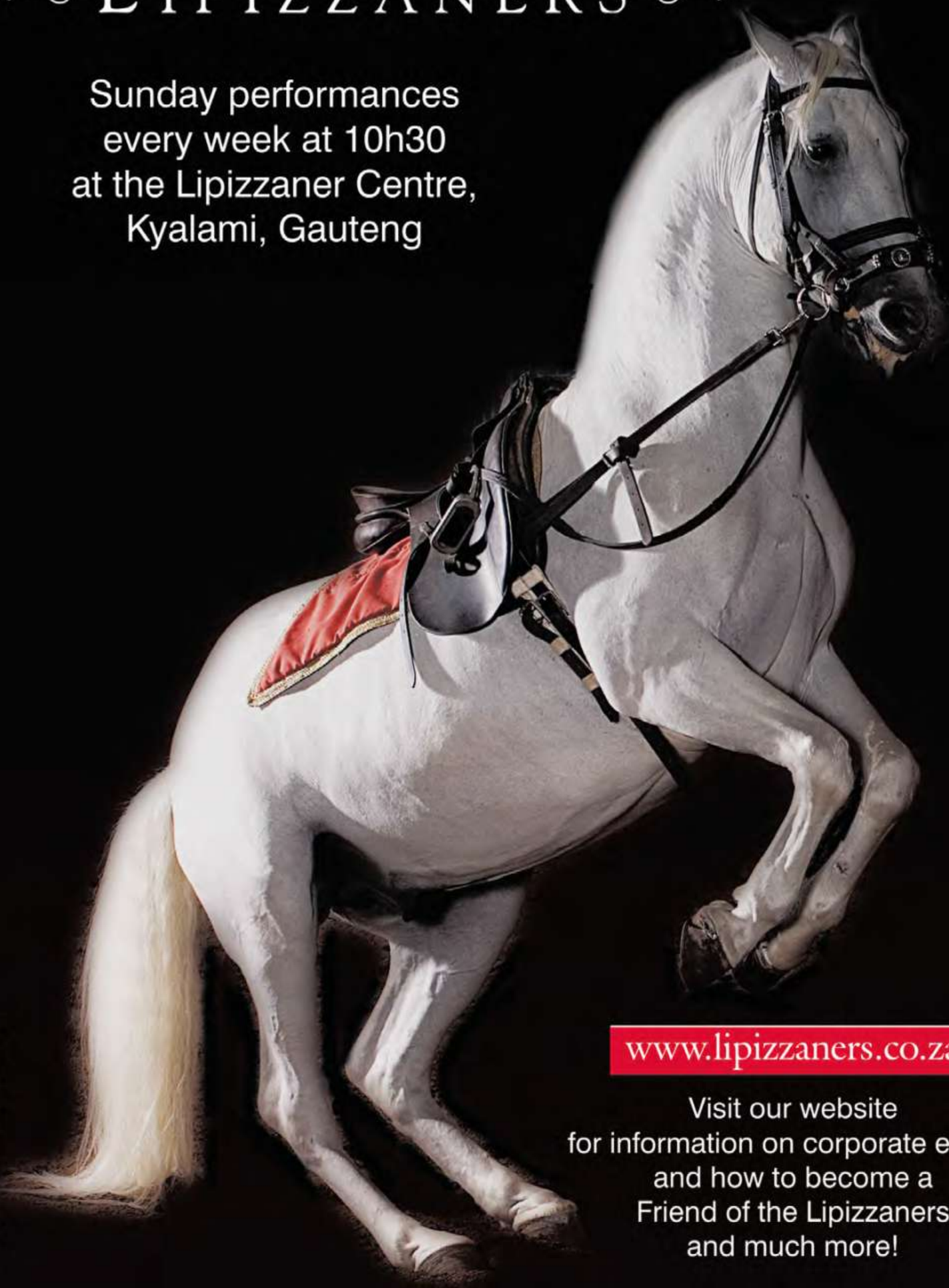


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Light cycle

Using light to manage
breeding cycles

2 **TRAINING**

On the bit – or not ...

Would you go bitless?

3 **HEALTH**

AHS alert

Competing during AHS season

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Ethology – understanding
and managing travel stress

Motoring – proactive driving
for horsebox safety



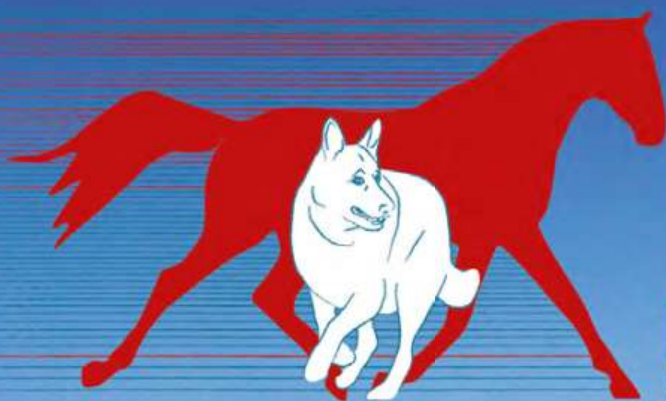
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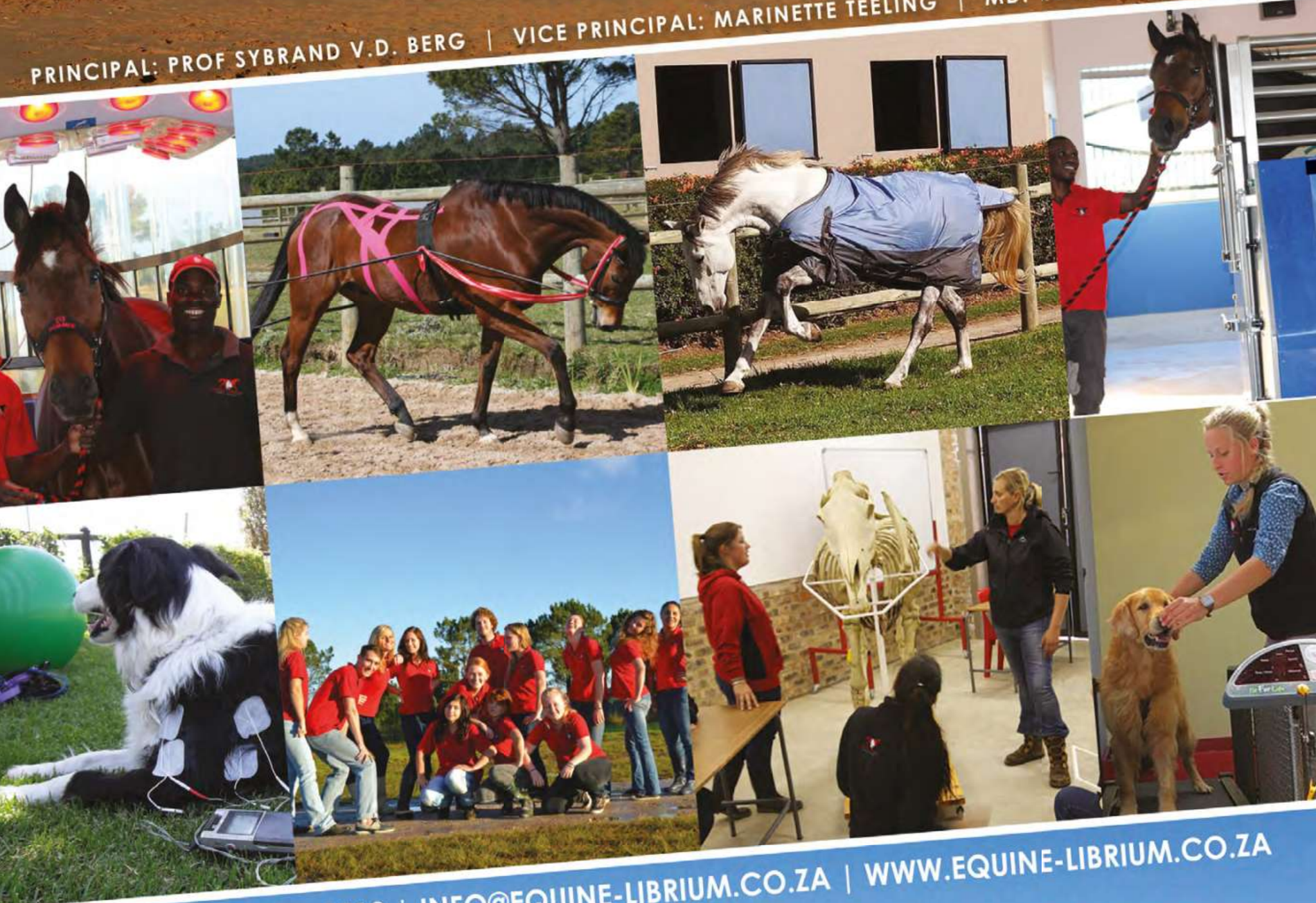
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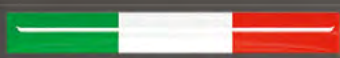


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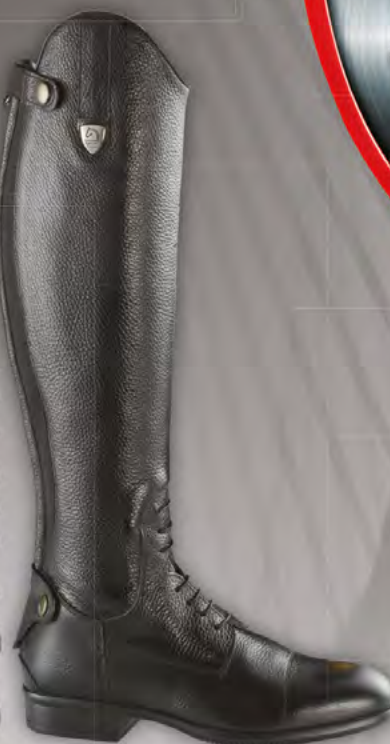
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